

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

*Chair: Jordan Watters Vice-Chair: Ann Whiteaker
Trustees: Nicole Duncan, Tom Ferris, Angie Hentze,
Elaine Leonard, Diane McNally, Ryan Painter, Rob Paynter*

September 20, 2019

Dear Board Chair:

In the face of a week of global youth-led climate strikes, school boards have the opportunity to support our students and show leadership in addressing the climate crisis. In June, our Board passed the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) recognize that the breakdown of the stable climate and sea level under which human life has developed constitutes an emergency, and that in declaring a climate emergency the Board:

- a) direct the Superintendent to develop a Climate Action Plan that establishes targets and strategies commensurate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's call to limit warming to 1.5 degrees;*
- b) direct the Superintendent to report back on specific actions and resources that could be included in future correspondence to the provincial or federal government; and*
- c) demonstrate leadership by directing the Board Chair to write letters to other school boards, local MLAs, and Provincial government encouraging them to declare climate emergencies and develop targets and strategies to combat climate change.*

Public education has an important role to play in supporting climate literacy in our communities. We need all citizens to have a basic understanding of the relationship between human life and Earth's climate system including the role climate plays in human and environmental health as well as social and economic stability.

Our students are leading the way in demanding action from all level of governments. I urge you to heed their call and find ways to take concrete steps to mitigate the climate crisis in your communities. Please also consider joining me in calling on the provincial and federal government to support us in taking these critical steps.

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

By working together, we can help create a future worthy of our children.

In partnership,



Jordan Watters
Chair, Board of Education

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One *Learning* Community

