

December 15, 2023

## Dear parents and caregivers:

As we near the end of 2023 and the beginning of the winter break throughout BC, I wish each and every one of you a lovely holiday season, and quality time with your families.

As a parent myself, I know how important an excellent education is for all of our children, allowing them to thrive in school and beyond. BC's K-12 education system continues to be world-leading, with BC students continuing to perform among the best in the world in math, science and reading.

While our students' intellectual development is incredibly important, we know that a sense of belonging is another key factor that allows students to learn, grow, and make progress. I know we all want our children to be part of a school where they are welcomed, included, and respected, with student success and well-being at the centre of all that we do.

Since the beginning of the school year, we have reached a number of milestones. This includes launching the Indigenous-focused Graduation Requirement, ensuring that students develop a deeper understanding of the perspectives, experiences, and cultures of Indigenous people before they graduate from high school. I am also proud that we have been able to launch the new Feeding Futures program that is dedicated to creating and expanding school food programs throughout BC so that students can be fed and be ready to learn.

I recognize the remarkable effort from parents and caregivers who remain dedicated every day to make their kids' lives better. From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate your support not only for your own students, but for all our young people. I hope you get a much-deserved restful and restorative break with those nearest to you and I look forward with you to a wonderful 2024.

Warmest regards,

Rachna Singh

Minister