



October 12, 2023

Ref: 293433

Their Worship Alan Harrison
Mayor of the City of Salmon Arm
Email: aharrison@salmonarm.ca

Dear Mayor Harrison:

I am writing to thank you for meeting with me on Monday, September 18, 2023, at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention (UBCM) in Vancouver.

I would like to begin by again thanking you for the lovely gifts presented to me at the start of the meeting. The forest fire shirts as well as the Orange Shirt Day shirt are displayed nicely in my office.

A record number of people are choosing to make BC their home, which is leading to more enrollment growth in schools. The Ministry works closely with school districts to accommodate growth in fast-growing areas, which includes helping to fund school district project offices with dedicated staff to deliver and expand new schools in their districts. Each school district completes their own enrollment projections for planning purposes to fulfill the required amount of teachers and staff needed each year as well as future project planning. Ministry staff regularly meet with all districts and school trustees to understand and work on solutions to address emerging and local needs throughout BC.

Enrollment projections often change over time given fluctuating variables and are one tool of many to facilitate future planning.

I recognize that the demographics of many neighbourhoods throughout the province are changing. The province continues to work closely with local governments, other Ministries, and school districts to meet the demands of student spaces.

As always, we encourage local governments to continue to, and/or ensure they are collaborating, communicating, and working together with the School District to ensure the best learning outcomes for kids. I can't stress the importance of that, especially through any land use planning and long-range facility planning. The information provided informs those plans – always better outcomes when we see more community plans come together.

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Again, thank you for advocating for your community and taking the time to meet with us. Your support and commitment are truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Singh', with a horizontal line underneath the 'h'.

Rachna Singh
Minister

Attachment - Capital Brochure

pc: Chris Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division
Donna Kriger, Superintendent
Marianne VanBuskirk, Board Chair