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Excellence Innovation Community

Joint Statement: RCMP Investigation

November 11, 2024

The following statement reinforces our support for our school staff and others affected by the disturbing mail several teachers and staff received. The District is actively collaborating with the RCMP and provincial and local partners to support our staff during this challenging time.

We, along with our partners, wish to state firmly and unequivocally that intimidation and harassment are unacceptable behaviours that have no place in our schools, communities, or society. Aligned with the provincial joint statement on safe, caring and inclusive schools, the Board and partners reaffirm our commitment to fostering and maintaining learning and working environments that are safe, respectful and inclusive of our communities' diverse social and cultural backgrounds. Staff members and students have the right to feel safe, valued, and respected in our learning environment, free from hate and fear. This commitment is at the center of the District and is the core of the policies, vision, mission, and values that guide all our work.

The **B.C. Human Rights Code** protects all individuals in B.C. from discrimination based on Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age. We are steadfast in our dedication to the Code and the District's inclusivity, diversity and equity values. Bullying, hate, and harassment will not be tolerated, as everyone in our District and communities deserves no less.

The RCMP are working closely with school and district administration as indicated in the <u>media</u> <u>statement</u> released on November 7. Anyone with information relevant to their investigation related to Evelyn Dickson Elementary is encouraged to contact the Vanderhoof RCMP at (250) 567-2222.

Dave Christie, Board Of Education - Chair

Elizabeth Bennett & Jim Iker, BLNTU Co-Presidents

Jim Sker

Carrie Smith, DPAC President

Devon Gardner, CUPE 4177 President

Devon Hardner

Ken Young, PVPA President