



December 16, 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

As we reach the end of 2022 and the start of the Winter break throughout BC, I want to wish you all a happy holiday season and introduce myself in my new role as BC's Minister of Education and Child Care - a position I am honoured to hold.

As a parent myself, I know how important a quality education is for all our children, as it provides a strong foundation, allowing them to achieve their goals and do well in the world. As I step into this new role, I am excited to connect with families and hear how we can continue to support students throughout BC in safe and inclusive ways that allow them to thrive.

In early September, thousands of students returned to class after a summer that brought us a lot closer to normal life. It was great to see kids once again able to participate in school sports, clubs and other extracurriculars. We know these programs play an important part in the health and social development of children and I look forward to seeing kids throughout BC continue to participate in fun and engaging after school activities in the coming year.

This year's respiratory illness season has been felt in our schools. I want to thank the parents, teachers and administrators who have followed the advice of Public Health and kept their children home when they are sick or stayed home themselves.

Vaccination continues to be the best way to protect our children and our school communities. Influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations are available for all children and youth aged 6 months – 17 years old. At this time, I strongly encourage you to book a vaccination appointment for your children over the Winter break if you haven't received one already. We are certainly all thankful for this additional layer of protection for our children and our communities.

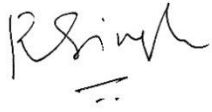
Our government remains committed to improving and modernizing B.C.'s K-12 education system, so that all BC students can access a world-class education.

I look forward to continuing this work in the new year and am excited to visit your school communities in the weeks and months ahead to see firsthand how B.C.'s schools are supporting our children as they learn and grow.

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I wish you all a restful and restorative break for you and your family. I hope you are able to celebrate in ways that are meaningful to you.

With gratitude,

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

Rachna Singh
Minister

