



April 24, 2015

Ref: 181471

Colleagues:

Minister Peter Fassbender has been travelling the province to host regional conversations on K–12 Innovation. These forums are the start of conversations between school districts, business, First Nations and community leaders on how to best support British Columbia’s K–12 Innovation Strategy as it moves from concept to everyday practice.

The design and delivery of these forums adapt slightly with each stop including proximity and size of neighbouring districts. I understand that these changes may have caused some confusion amongst school districts and boards of education, so I want to take a moment to clarify a few details on how these events are being put together and what our plan is over the next several months.

Our first event was held on February 27th in the Comox Valley. This event was a community-specific forum, and while neighbouring superintendents and board chairs were invited to attend, the focus was largely on the Comox Valley School District. Our second event in Kelowna on April 10th had broader regional representation, with eight districts from the Thompson-Okanagan BCSSA Chapter invited. Due to the size of the venue and the number of participating districts, each surrounding district was offered one table (five seats) for the forum while the focus of the presentation portion of the forum remained on the host district (SD 23).

Today we are in Langley for our third forum. Given the size and location of the districts in the Fraser Valley the decision was made to host the forum at a larger facility, to accommodate a much broader representation of the region. For this event, each district was offered approximately 50 seats, which would allow us to host up to 400 people at the forum. While some districts have a smaller number of confirmed guests, each district was given the same number of seats for their communities. The districts included in the Langley forum include all districts in the Fraser Valley Chapter of the BCSSA, with the addition of Delta and Surrey. We understand that this does not match up with the boundaries of the BCSSA; however, we looked at the geographical considerations and used the Fraser River as the guide.

Future events and proposed district participants are scheduled as follows:

**Fort St. John – May 15:** SD 59 – Peace River South, SD 60 – Peace River North (host), SD 81 – Fort Nelson, SD 87 – Stikine

.../2

**Prince George – June 15:** SD 27 – Cariboo-Chilcotin, SD 28 – Quesnel, SD 54 – Bulkley Valley, SD 57 – Prince George (host), SD 91 – Nechako Lakes

Invitations for these forums will be similar to the Kelowna event, with neighbouring districts being offered a number of seats based on venue size and number of districts.

We recognize that a number of districts will have not yet had a chance to participate in a forum; the Ministry is having internal discussions on what possible plans could look like for the fall.

We genuinely appreciate the time you have taken to participate in the K–12 Innovation Forum thus far, and look forward to continuing the conversation at the remaining forums. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer McCrea, Learning Division at [Jennifer.McCrea@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.McCrea@gov.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Byng', with a stylized flourish extending to the left.

Dave Byng  
Deputy Minister