


Zimbra

211825 Gatien SDPR Response

De : Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX <SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca> mer., 21 avr. 2021 09:04
Objet : 211825 Gatien SDPR Response  1 pièce jointe
À : 'secretariat_ca@csf.bc.ca' <secretariat_ca@csf.bc.ca>
Cc : OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
<Premier@gov.bc.ca>, Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX
<HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca>, Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX
<EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Les images externes ne seront pas affichées. [Montre les images ci-dessous](#)

Ref: 211825

Patrick Gatien, Chair
Board of Trustees
Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSFCB)
c/o secretariat_ca@csf.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Gatien:

Thank you and your Board of Trustees for your thoughtful letter of February 16, 2021, regarding poverty in British Columbia and its impact on child development and education. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I appreciate you writing to share CSFCB's recommendations to reduce child poverty in BC, including the need for more affordable housing projects and improved access to healthy food. Thank you for the work you have done with students through your Halte à la pauvreté Committee. This is a valuable experience for students that empowers them to increase awareness of child poverty in their communities and advocate for poverty reduction.

Our government recognizes the need to address poverty, and especially child poverty in BC. On November 5, 2018, the Legislative Assembly of BC unanimously passed the *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act*, which commits government to reducing the overall rate of poverty by 25 percent and the child poverty rate by 50 percent by 2024. These targets are based on the Market Basket Measure (MBM), Canada's official poverty line. Between 2016 and 2018, the rate of poverty amongst children was reduced by 35.9 percent, according to the new 2018 MBM. Using the 2018-base MBM, the result of achieving the legislated targets will be 177,000 fewer people living in poverty, including 70,500 children.

Another commitment of the *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act* was for government to release BC's first poverty reduction strategy. This strategy, called TogetherBC, was released on March 18, 2019. It is a cross-government initiative that addresses many of the issues you've raised in your letter. You may be interested in viewing the 2019 Annual Report on TogetherBC, which was released in December 2020. The report contains work on poverty reduction that spans across all ministries and every region of the province. You can find a full copy of TogetherBC and the 2019 Annual Report at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/TogetherBC>.

Government also provides a number of supports for low-income families in BC, including a range of family and child benefits from both the provincial and the federal governments. The federal GST Credit, the BC Sales Tax Credit, and the BC Climate Action Tax Credit are paid together in one cheque up to four times per year. As well, the Canada Revenue Agency administers the Canada Child Benefit on a monthly basis. The BC Child Opportunity Benefit, which replaced the BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit in October 2020, now provides support for children up to 18 years old. These tax benefits are fully exempt for income and disability assistance recipients.

In addition to these tax benefits, and to ensure that low-income families who do not receive income, disability, or hardship assistance also have the supports they require, the Province established the Healthy Kids Program. This program provides basic dental treatment, optical care, and hearing assistance to all children in low-income families. For more information on the Healthy Kids Program, please visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/health-supplements-and-programs/healthy-kids>.

Additionally, BC families with school aged children benefitted from amendments to the *School Act* that made it easier for boards of education to deliver licensed child care for students. More information on these amendments is available at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0009-000332>.

Like CSFCB, our government understands that the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the impacts of poverty for many families in the province. To ensure students have access to remote learning and to provide further support for families, the Province loaned more than 23,000 computers and devices to students across BC. The Province also ensured that Budget 2020 included the highest school district operating and capital funding ever for students. An additional \$288 million committed in one-time provincial and federal COVID-19 relief funding this school year will keep BC's K-12 schools safe during the pandemic for students and staff.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. Our government remains committed to lowering poverty in BC, and I'm pleased to know CSFCB has that same goal.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Simons

Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

cc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier
Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs
Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education

From: secretariat_ca@csf.bc.ca <secretariat_ca@csf.bc.ca>

Sent: February 16, 2021 12:44 PM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Patrick Gatien <patrick_gatien@csf.bc.ca>; Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX <EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX <SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; EDUC DM EDUC:EX <DM.Education@gov.bc.ca>; shigginson@bcsta.org; Suzanna Straus <presidence@fpfcb.bc.ca>; bro21sodu@csf.bc.ca; bro21anmo@csf.bc.ca

Subject: Efforts de lutte contre la pauvreté / Working to combat poverty

Monsieur le premier-ministre,

Au nom de M. Gatien, Président du conseil d'administration du Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (SD 93), veuillez prendre connaissance de la correspondance bilingue en pièce jointe.

Bien à vous,

Dear Premier,

Please find attached the bilingual correspondence on behalf of Mr. Gatien, Chair of the Board of trustees of the CSF/SD 93.

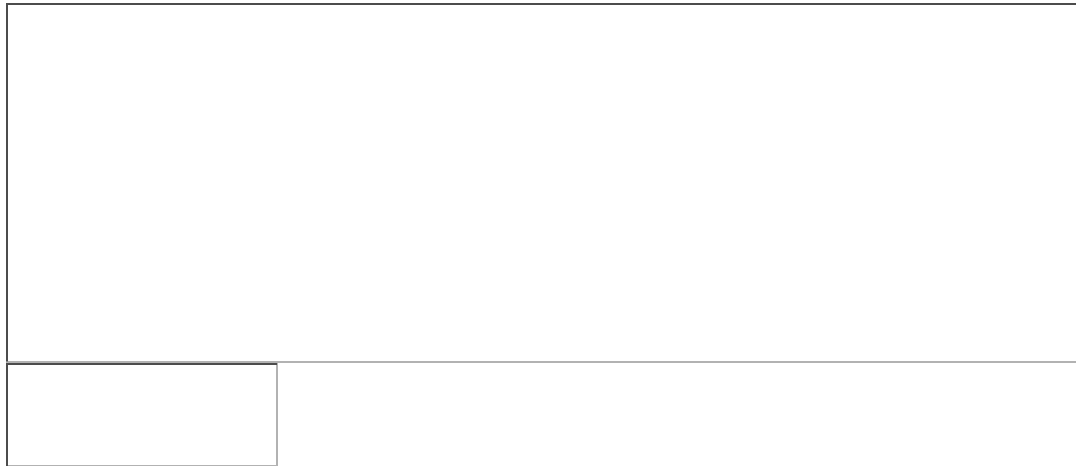
Best regards,

Coralie Mpoyo, B.A.

Adjointe administrative du conseil d'administration

Executive Assistant of the Board of Trustees

T. 604.214.2636



Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique

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