

April 11, 2011

The Honourable George Abbott  
Minister of Education  
P.O. Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Abbott:

On behalf of the North Vancouver Board of Education, I wish to extend a warm welcome to you upon your return to the Education portfolio and invite you to visit our School District to see first hand many of the exciting initiatives we have underway. We would be pleased to arrange a tour of some of our school facilities. The Education Services Centre featuring the Artists for Kids Gallery commenced construction last summer and the comprehensive restoration of Ridgeway Elementary School, one of the North Shore's premier heritage schools, is nearing completion.

I'm sorry that you are unable to attend the North Shore Credit Union Environmental Learning Centre groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for April 20, 2011 at the North Vancouver Outdoor School in Squamish. The Environmental Learning Centre (ELC) will be built to a LEEDS Platinum standard and is the first phase of our longer term plan to rebuild the entire campus. Our goal is to transform the North Vancouver Outdoor School into a world-class demonstration site and learning and research facility for K-post secondary education and training. The ELC will help to address the diversity of the province's students, including life-long learners, Aboriginal people, new immigrants and international students, by providing flexible, adaptable educational programming and learning spaces.

I have enclosed a copy of our most recent Community Report 2011 that was distributed throughout the North Shore with our local newspaper, the North Shore Outlook. I would like to draw your attention to page three of the report that contains an article on how the North Vancouver School District is addressing the vision of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

Our Board of Education and the School District's Presidents' Council, comprised of the president and vice-presidents of our partner groups, would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss issues of mutual interest. I look forward to hearing from you and arranging an introduction to the North Vancouver School District.

Best regards,



Franci Stratton  
Chairperson

FS/mg

cc North Vancouver Board of Education  
John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools

