



November 22, 2016

Ref: 191775

To: All Board Chairs, Superintendents, Secretary Treasurer and All School Districts

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, in June of 2016, the Government announced the appointment of MLA Linda Larson as the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education. As part of her review of rural educational practices and rural education funding, Parliamentary Secretary Larson is tasked with creating a Rural Education Strategy by the end of the 2016/17 school year. Input from a range of stakeholder groups such as parents, the public, school district staff, Boards of Education, partner organizations, and local governments is an integral part of this strategy.

All feedback received will help shape the final report and the development of recommendations for the future. The main goal is to find long-term solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while considering the important social, cultural, and economic roles that schools play for small communities.

I am pleased to announce that the consultation process for the rural education review has been officially launched. Details on the engagement process and ways to participate, including an online discussion forum, can be found at <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/>.

In addition to encouraging your staff to participate in the online discussion forum –open until January 9, 2017 at 4:00pm, you are invited to participate in a short online survey at <https://interceptum.com/s/en/ruraleducation-nov2016> using the password \*6@31Rural.

On behalf of Linda Larson, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education, thank you for taking the time to participate in the conversation on rural education in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "G. Farkas".

George Farkas  
Assistant Deputy Minister