



From the Office of the Assistant
Superintendent – Diversity and Equity

February 14, 2017

Dear Students, Parents, Caregivers and District Staff:

In light of the recent tragedy at a Mosque in Quebec City and the political unrest we are witnessing around the world, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board of Education and senior staff, to remind you that Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools will continue to be respectful, accepting, safe, and supportive of everyone in our school communities.

Clearly, the province of British Columbia and the Canadian government will continue to welcome refugees and immigrants from other countries, no matter their nationality or religion. It is this multicultural society that makes Canada so very special and strong.

Last year, the district proudly introduced a new policy that focused on Inclusion. The [policy](#), based on the principles of respect, acceptance, safety, and equity, asserts that all members of the Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools community have the right to expect that policies, procedures, programs and communications are inclusive and respectful; taking into consideration visible and invisible diversities including but not limited to: race, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, religion, culture and socio-economic status.

It is in the recognition and honouring of diversity, and valuing of the contributions of all members of our school communities that creates the feeling of being welcome. I believe that it is important in these troubling times that we as educators emphasize these values in our schools and classrooms.

We will continue our work to foster school cultures that are responsive to the diverse social and cultural needs of individuals and groups, recognize the injustices of marginalization, advocate for social justice, and promote human rights. I encourage our students, should you have questions or concerns about what is happening around the world, to enter into open dialogue with a parent, teacher or school counsellor.

Please know that Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools genuinely welcomes you and we look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,



Bob Eslinger
Assistant Superintendent