



RE: RCMP in Schools

Dear Bjorn Stime,

Thank you for your correspondence. It was shared with the Board of Education at a meeting held on April 26, 2023.

On behalf of the Board, I write in response to your concerns regarding the presence of RCMP officers carrying lethal weapons during their visits to schools in our district. The Board appreciates your message and the previous conversations you have had with Trustees.

We understand your desire to ensure a safe learning environment for our students. It is always appreciated and important to address any concerns related to the presence of lethal weapons in schools, especially during non-emergency situations.

Regarding your proposal to restrict RCMP officers from carrying lethal weapons on school campuses, such as visits by Nanaimo RCMP Youth Team members, parents who are on duty as RCMP officers attending children's events, and career day events, we acknowledge the validity of your concerns. The safety and well-being of our students are of utmost importance.

As the Board of Education, it is our responsibility to consider and address these matters in a thoughtful and inclusive manner. Your proposal has been shared with the entire Board and district senior leadership and I have been asked to respond.

We continually assess the Youth Team program, taking into account various factors such as the RCMP's perspective and the need for this type of program to exist in our schools.

Furthermore, I appreciate your initiative in reaching out to the B.C. Human Rights Commissioner, Kasari Govender, on the School Liaison Officer programs in BC. We value Commissioner Govender's insights and recommendations, and we will also take into account any relevant guidance she provides regarding the use of SLO programs in school districts across the province.

I assure you that your concerns have been duly noted. The Board will carefully evaluate the proposal and consider the best course of action to address the concerns raised by parents, students, and the community.

Thank you once again for bringing this important issue to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Keller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Greg Keller
Board Chair