



June 26, 2020

Dear Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools families,

As the school year draws to a close we wanted to send our utmost thanks to each and every one of you for your continued patience, understanding and perseverance through what has been one of the most trying times in modern history.

Navigating the challenges of supporting the delivery of education from home through a global pandemic while maintaining careers and myriad other individual and difficult circumstances is not an easy undertaking and is greatly appreciated.

Through the optional and limited return of students in June, B.C. school districts have gained valuable insight and will use the experience to prepare for next school year. A provincial steering committee comprised of teachers, parents, First Nations, support staff, school administration and school trustees will examine what worked well this month, to learn from best practices and direct our planning for the 2020/2021 school year.

While the information from this provincial steering committee will benefit us greatly in planning for next school year, we invite you to take a moment to participate in the NLPS end of year [ThoughtExchange](#) to provide a local parent perspective on what worked well and how we can improve.

You will recall that The Ministry of Education developed a [five-stage approach](#) to operate schools during the global pandemic. In June, we were in Stage 3 of this plan and want to assure you that NLPS and the steering committee will be using this month's experience to develop thoughtful and comprehensive plans for each stage. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the five-stage approach.

Yesterday, Education Minister Rob Fleming and B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils President Andrea Sinclair released an [open letter](#) to all B.C. families. The letter explains the goal of having more students return in September with the understanding that the province and school districts are preparing for several return to school scenarios based on how COVID-19 evolves over the summer. We are expecting direction from the Ministry of Education and Provincial Health Officer sometime during the week of August 17 concerning what stage we will be in when students return to school in September.

We hope you are able to take a well-deserved break this summer and we look forward to seeing you again in September!

Sincerely,

Charlene McKay  
Board Chair

Scott Saywell  
Superintendent/CEO