
From: Lois Beischer

Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 3:47:11 PM

To: Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>; Wayne Broughton <Wayne.Broughton@sd23.bc.ca>; Amy Geistlinger <Amy.Geistlinger@sd23.bc.ca>; Lee-Ann Tiede <Lee-Ann.Tiede@sd23.bc.ca>; Lisa Guderyan <Lisa.Guderyan@sd23.bc.ca>; Chantelle Desrosiers <Chantelle.Desrosiers@sd23.bc.ca>; Valene Johnson <Valene.Johnson@sd23.bc.ca>

Subject: June 11 SD 23 board meeting Solidarity

Tansi way hello

Please hit reply to acknowledge you received this email.

I compose this message from stqa?tk'łcnīwt , also known as Windy Bay, or the Anglicized place name of Westbank. Through sharing a bit of my story I offer solidarity and gratitude to the SD 23 Board of Education.

Let us come with respect for this land, the unceded traditional area of the Syilx peoples. The Syilx people have been caretakers of the land for thousands of years. Let us honor these ancestral grounds and celebrate N'səlxcín' (language), wisdom, captik'ł , and resiliency of the Svīlx nation, as well as their ongoing relationship to tmx'ūla?x'w (land) and tmix'w (all living things).

I wish to speak to SD 23 board and trustees offering solidarity and support for recent statement on Central Okanagan public school statement on Indigenous Solidarity as a care filled response to 3 MLA's hate filled, racist comments that undermine the work of inclusion and reconciliation, pillars of SD 23. These statements repudiating sovereignty must be responded to with care, respect and truth as this disinformation is not only violent but perpetuates dispossession in the most problematic manner. "No need to recognize Aboriginal title or sovereignty " as Armstrong states is adamantly not the message we wish children in our school district to hear.

I would like to speak to this from several levels first and foremost from a purely humanitarian perspective embracing and living in the spirit of reconciliation. I uphold the 94 Calls to Action, UNDRIP and both Canadian and Indigenous laws.

Our family brings with a diversity of ancestors- First Nations, Metis, and those of European descent. From that diversity within our family I know it is possible to hold various distinct traditions and perspectives that together, create a harmonious richer perspective. Armstrong message does not hold that possibility.

I speak from personal lived (and ongoing living) experience of the inter-generational trauma resulting from colonization and these insidious continued and ongoing perspectives like Armstrong promotes that deny the genocide and resultant trauma that our ancestors experienced, a trauma not by their choice.

My children attended Sensisysten , and then transitioned into public school, where I was so grateful to have a school district that acknowledged, believed , and lived with acceptance of the many levels of genocide and abuse inflicted on our elder. On a personal level having that perspective which provided cultural sensitivity and was integrated into their learnings for my children was of great importance and to that I offer gratitude to SD 23.

As a community member I passionately offer education on reconciliation, specifically diving deep into the 94 calls to action. I must speak in solidarity and adamant opposition to the 3 MLA statements that feed disinformation and breed a climate of hate and racism. I thank SD 23 for speaking the truth and bravely countering such misinformation and devastating discourse from individuals like MLAs Dallas Brodie, Jordan Kealy, and Tara Armstrong.

As a CUPE member I stand in solidarity with CUPE brothers and sisters in SD 23 who bring a spirit of reconciliation to the places of learning and gathering in SD 23.

I thank the school board and staff for their openness to giving a meaningful voice to those whose voice is not heard or for those who are unable to speak.

Together we must speak to the truth and live it in our daily actions and words as we establish lasting relationship, restore identity and culture and honor our ancestors tmx'ūla?x'w (land) and tmix'w (all living things).

Thank you, Maarsii, Limlimt

Lois Beischer,

stqa?tk'łcnīwt , Windy Bay, Westbank