

Chute Lake Elementary PAC
5240 Lark Street
Kelowna BC V1W 4K8

June 4, 2023

Board of Trustees
Central Okanagan School District
1040 Hollywood Road S.
Kelowna, BC, V1X 4N2

Dear Trustees of the Central Okanagan School Board,

We are writing to you as the President and Vice President of the Chute Lake Elementary Parent Advisory Council (PAC), with the full backing of our PAC executive team. Our PAC represents the collective voice of parents in our school community, and it is our responsibility to express deep concern regarding an incident that transpired just outside our school grounds last week, on Wednesday, May 31.

A group identifying itself as Action4Canada, engaged parents and caregivers, including those with pre-school-aged children, near our school—specifically, near the field on Lark Street where parents park to pick up their Chute Lake Elementary students. We understand that these individuals persistently attempted to involve parents waiting in their vehicles for school pickup. Although this is the first known instance of such activity at our school, we have been informed by other PACs that this group has been present at other schools within our district throughout this school year.

The individuals from Action4Canada disseminated materials containing false, anti-inclusive, and harmful messaging, causing significant distress among some members of our school community. While we fully respect the democratic right to free speech, we believe it must be exercised responsibly and without causing harm to others. In this context, we consider the activities of the Action4Canada members to fall beyond the scope of acceptable expression, especially in an environment involving young children.

Considering the gravity of this issue, we strongly urge the Central Okanagan School Board to take immediate and proactive measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, parents, staff, and community members, and to prevent such incidents from continuing to occur near schools in our district.

In the long term, we advocate for the School Board to initiate a community-wide conversation about this issue. Open dialogue, education, and understanding are paramount in fostering an inclusive, respectful community. We must work together to safeguard our schools, ensuring they continue to be environments conducive to learning, growth, and inclusivity for all students.

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5240 Lark Street, Kelowna BC V1W 4K8

We eagerly await your response and anticipate seeing effective steps taken to address this pressing concern. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your continued commitment to the education and well-being of our students.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Baker
2022/23 President
CLE Parent Advisory Council

Kelly Lee
2022/23 Vice President
CLE Parent Advisory Council