



July 5, 2016

Ref: 188242

Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner  
Province of British Columbia  
**Email: [CoronerRequest@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CoronerRequest@gov.bc.ca)**

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

Thank you for your letter dated June 7, 2016, and report regarding the BC Coroners Service Child Death Review Panel Report and Recommendations. You have requested a response stating what actions the Ministry of Education intends to or has taken in relation to the recommendations outlined in the report. I am pleased to respond and share our work to date.

***Recommendation 2: Enhance Road Safety Education and Awareness***

- *The Ministry of Education and School Districts will solicit the views of students about how they get to school, road safety and what would make students feel safer when biking or walking.*
- *The Ministry of Education and School Districts will work with students to increase awareness and knowledge of road safety when travelling on foot, on boards and by bike. This could be supported through 'road safety theme weeks', road safe campaigns, or curriculum, and should include the topics of general road safety, the importance of being seen and bike helmet use.*

The Ministry of Education is pleased to have been able to work with classroom teachers on revising British Columbia's curriculum. This partnership will continue and school districts will continue to implement this curriculum based on the needs of their students.

Within the revised curriculum, which will be the official curriculum for the upcoming school year, I am pleased to advise that safety is explicitly included. In addition, road safety will be introduced in the early grades.

Specifically:

- In Kindergarten and Grade 1 students learn about "hazards and potentially unsafe situations" and the examples include "cars on the road".
- In Grades 2–3 students are expected to have an understanding of "Adopting healthy personal practices and safety strategies protects ourselves and others".
- In Grades K–9 students learn "how to participate in different types of physical activities including individual and dual activities" and the examples include "bicycling".
- In Grades K–9 students are also expected to be able to "Develop and demonstrate safety, fair play, and leadership in physical activities".

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- In Grades 6–9 students learn about “responding to emergencies” where the basic principles include:
  - following safety guidelines;
  - having an emergency response plan; and
  - knowing how to get help.

Overall, the idea of safety progresses and grows as students advance through the grades. The official revised curriculum will be available shortly at [www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca](http://www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca).

Part of the overall education transformation happening in BC is to provide classroom teachers, schools, and school districts with space to determine what best fits within their local communities and context. In BC, school districts are in the best position to work directly with their local communities to identify which resources would be most beneficial in supporting student learning. There are a number of organizations that work directly with school boards on the topic of safety, for example:

- Organizations, such as ICBC provide materials on road safety to schools for all grades.
- DASH BC organizes an annual Walk and Wheel to School event. A week-long provincial event held every year in October, Walk and Wheel to School encourages students, parents, staff, and community members to celebrate the many benefits of walking to school, including promoting opportunities to practice safe walking and biking skills and identifying safe routes to school.
- To help make school zones safer for students, the BCAA Road Safety Foundation offers its School Safety Patrol Program free-of-charge to BC elementary schools.
- Parachute (Preventing Injuries, Saving Lives) helps build awareness and understanding of the issue of injury, to keep Canadians safe at home, on the road, at work, and at play.
- HASTe (Hub for Active School Travel) is British Columbia’s leading active and safe routes to school programmer and resource centre, working with communities and partners across the province to connect kids, schools and communities through walking and cycling.

Helping to increase knowledge is a collective responsibility, and I am pleased to be a part of the ongoing efforts to support BC students to be safe in any situation.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Lisa Dominato, Director, Student Wellness and Safety by email at [Lisa.Dominato@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Dominato@gov.bc.ca), or by phone at (250) 817-3635.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Mike Bernier  
Minister



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MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

December 9, 2016

Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner  
Office of the Chief Coroner  
Ministry of Justice  
Metrotower II  
4720 Kingsway, Suite 800  
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2

Reference: 257695

Dear Chief Coroner Lapointe:

**Re: Panel Recommendations**

Thank you for your letter and attached report regarding the results of the Child and Youth Pedestrian, Cyclist and Boarder Death Review Panel. Please accept my apologies for the lateness of my reply.

The ministry takes the safety of all road users very seriously, and I appreciated reviewing the results of your report and your recommendations on how to protect and educate our province's children and youth on road safety. The ministry is constantly looking for ways to ensure our road network remains as safe and reliable as possible for the travelling public, including pedestrians, cyclists and boarders, and so it is extremely valuable to be able to refer to the hard work undertaken by the B.C. Coroner's Service and the panel participants as we develop new guidelines and plan future improvements.

With respect to the recommendation addressed to my ministry to "Adopt Safe Road Design and Infrastructure," I am pleased to let you know the ministry has been working on developing engineering criteria over the past several months that aligns with your recommendation to expand crosswalk safety at signalized intersections, and that this work will be finalized by December, 2017. The results will be posted on the ministry's engineering web site, where they may be accessed by municipalities for their consideration and adoption as they see fit.

A good example of an early implementation of this work is the ministry's recently completed project to install a pedestrian leading phase on Highway 99 at Vine/Portage Road in Pemberton. The ministry is currently developing criteria for dedicated pedestrian phases and leading pedestrian intervals to use on improvement projects in areas of high pedestrian activity. In addition, we plan to review existing intersections of this description for potential retroactive upgrades.

Going forward, we will also ensure applicants for BikeBC funding meet best cycling design standards by adding this requirement to our application web site and approvals process. This was completed over the summer of 2016, in advance of the October 2016 call for applications for the 2017/18 funding year.

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Specific to your third point, ministry engineers follow internationally accepted standards developed by the Institute of Transportation Engineers and take into account factors such as highway design, current operating speed, safety history and adjacent land use when setting and reviewing speed limits. The ministry and its safety partners will continue to monitor speed limits across the province to ensure safety is maintained and to determine if modifications are necessary. It is important to note that within municipalities, municipal councils are empowered to set speed limits for roads under their jurisdiction.

Thank you again for sharing with me the results of your important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Todd G. Stone', with a stylized, flowing script.

Todd G. Stone  
Minister

Copy to: Michael Egilson, Chair  
Child Death Review Unit