



January 21, 2015

Ref: 176649

Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner
Office of the Chief Coroner
Metrotower 11
Suite 800–4720 Kingsway
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2
Email: Lisa.Lapointe@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

Thank you for your letter of August 6, 2014, to the Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education, requesting an update on the actions taken by the Ministry of Education in response to recommendations put forward by a Child Death Review Panel in September 2013. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Minister and apologize for my late reply.

The Ministry's collaboration with other child and family serving ministries, school districts and community partners is key in helping prevent suicide by supporting the mental health and well-being of all BC's children and youth. In September 2013, the Minister provided you with an overview of the Provincial ERASE strategy along with a brief description of the three training levels. The Minister also outlined how the Provincial Advisory Committee would focus work on creating consistent violence threat risk assessment guidelines and information sharing protocols between our various partners.

To date, we have trained over 8,000 educators and community partners. We are pleased to report that there were higher numbers of community partners who participated in the training sessions this past year including law enforcement, child protection, mental health professionals and other community agencies. Evaluations of the training sessions continue to be over the 95th percentile in terms of overall satisfaction with the trainers, resource materials and value of the training as it pertained to their various roles and responsibilities.

With the commencement of Level 3 training – Advanced Threat Risk Assessment, we will continue to expand our participant numbers and strengthen collaborative partnerships to improve intervention strategies for children and families. Components of Level 3 include a focus on the community protocol development and review process, crisis/trauma response, impact of social media on children and mental health issues.

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The ERASE Provincial Advisory Council comprised of top provincial leaders from partner groups, law enforcement and social ministries and agencies met for the first time in January 2014. The Council advises, recommends and assists the Ministry of Education in addressing bullying and other student safety matters. The Council will be endorsing provincial guidelines for Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) community protocols and information sharing procedures to deal with bullying and other harmful behaviours. Work in these areas is currently underway.

We will continue with our efforts to support the Panel's recommendations and we are committed to improving supports and interventions for children and youth with mental health challenges and their families.

If you require further information or assistance, please contact Rod Allen, Assistant Deputy Minister/Superintendent of Learning at Rod.Allen@gov.bc.ca or by phone at 250-213-3000.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Byng', is positioned above the typed name.

Dave Byng
Deputy Minister