



June 13, 2024

Ref: 299231

John McNamee, Acting Chief Coroner  
**Email: [chiefcoronercorrespondence@gov.bc.ca](mailto:chiefcoronercorrespondence@gov.bc.ca)**

Dear John McNamee:

Thank you for your letter of February 12, 2024, regarding the recommendation for the Ministry of Education and Child Care with assistance from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions from the inquest jury concerning the death of Kyaw Naing Maung. We apologize for the lengthy delay in responding.

In response to Recommendation 3: ***Develop a teaching module for Mental Health & Addiction Awareness to de-stigmatize mental illness, with the assistance of the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions.***

In British Columbia's Physical and Health Education curriculum, there are several mandatory learning standards from Kindergarten through to Grade 10 that focus on students developing positive mental health and well-being. Examples include: Kindergarten to Grade 3 students learn how to identify, describe (K-Grade 1), and apply (Grades 2-3) strategies to promote positive mental well-being; Grade 4-8 students learn to describe and assess strategies for managing problems related to mental well-being and substance use (Grade 4), for others (Grades 5-9); and Grade 7-10 students learn signs and symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression.

In addition to the curriculum, the Ministry of Education and Child Care has updated and released the *Student Health Guide* for both Elementary and Secondary teachers and staff. These guides provide more in-depth information, classroom considerations, instructional strategies, and resources on the topic of mental health and key issues we see within it (for instance Stress, Body Image, and Coping Strategies).

Other available resources to support educators in teaching about mental health in their classrooms include: the [Decision-Making Tool: Supporting Educators in Selecting Mental Health and Substance Use Resources](#), an optional toolkit to support identifying appropriate, effective mental health and well-being resources for their learners; and [Language Matters! An Introductory Guide for Understanding Mental Health and Substance Use: A Resource for Educators and School Communities](#) to support mental health literacy and build capacity in the K-12 system to facilitate conversations, build common understandings, and support practice of mental health concepts and terms.

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The Mental Health in Schools (MHIS) strategy, led by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, embeds positive mental health and wellness programs and services for students in all school districts. The Ministry of Education and Child Care has implemented MHIS, with investments in three main elements within the strategy: Compassionate Systems Leadership, Capacity Building, and Mental Health in the Classroom. Developing a common language and understanding of mental health terms to improve mental health literacy and reduce stigma is a key action within the strategy. The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions provides grants to the Ministry of Education and Child Care, for disbursement to school districts, to support MHIS.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Christina Zacharuk  
Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care



Jonathan Dubé  
Acting Deputy Minister of Mental Health and  
Addictions