



**Joint statement on safe, caring and inclusive schools  
2024**

Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care; BC School Trustees Association; BC School Superintendents Association; BC Association of School Business Officials; BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association; BC Teachers' Federation; CUPE BC; BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils; Federation of Independent School Associations; First Nations Education Steering Committee; First Nations Schools Association; and Métis Nation British Columbia have released the following statement about safe, caring and inclusive schools:

“All of B.C.’s provincial education partners for K-12 schools, joined by Minister Rachna Singh, are standing together in solidarity to ensure every school is a place where all students feel welcome, included and respected in a safe learning environment, while being fully and completely themselves.”

“There is no room for any type of discrimination in our schools. The B.C. Human Rights Code protects B.C. students from discrimination based on Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age. Every school in B.C. should be a place where everyone is welcome, and no student should feel unsafe or excluded.”

In May, the Province announced new legislation that allows us to activate safe access zones to protect schools from harmful disruptions, like protests. Based on the disruptive behaviour that occurred throughout the last school year and that persists today, once again access zones at all of B.C. K-12 public and independent schools are activated, with a few limited exceptions, to help ensure all students and staff feel safe at school and can focus on learning.

“We want to recognize the work being done to ensure all students and staff are protected from discrimination at school and acknowledge there is still much more work to be done. Building an education system that is welcoming for all of B.C.’s K-12 students, staff and families is critical with a focus on student success and well-being at the center. As provincial education partners, we stand unified in this commitment.”