

Dear Trustees and Superintendent of School District 57,

We are writing to express deep concerns regarding the future of our students in the rural communities of Mackenzie, McBride and Valemount within School District 57, due to what we have been reading regarding proposed budget cuts, that we see as putting the weight of cuts on rural schools, which already lack the same resources that other schools in Prince George receive.

We are very concerned about the lack of communication and engagement within our communities. We have had to learn about these updates through social media and news reports, rather than School District 57 coming and talking to our communities. Even meetings that could be streamed online, School District 57 has not provided Zoom links to watch and participate.

The proposed budget cuts to administration in rural schools, to the DLC, to clerical staff, to rural schools specifically and to transportation, we feel that they will have a much more significant impact on the children of rural communities and continue to put them at a disadvantage. When we review the Strategic Plan of SD57, these proposed cuts go against 3 of the 4 priorities outlined: Learning, Equity of Access and Wellness.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response and action on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

The Councils and Mackenzie, McBride and Valemount.

CC To:

MLA Shirley Bond

MLA Mike Morris

Minister of Education and Child Care Rachna Singh