



**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)**

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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November 28, 2021

Good afternoon Princeton Families,

We know that this is an extremely difficult time for our families and students. We also understand that there is an added stress and greater concern when we are not able to provide our students with face-to-face learning. Please know that we are working hard at opening schools and providing this support as quickly as possible.

The challenges that we faced prior to this weekend was that all four schools had inadequate water pressure to confirm fire protection and additionally at three of the schools we have a 'do not consume' water condition. We are pleased to report that the Town of Princeton has confirmed fire protection to the Bench areas of town and as a result we can plan for the opening of Vermilion Forks Elementary School.

Currently we have been advised by Interior Health not to open schools that are under a 'do not consume' order; therefore, the support provided at Vermilion Forks Elementary may be determined by the time needed to move to a 'boil water' status at the other schools. If we believe the timeline is short, we will plan for a regular intermediate student opening and if the timeline is substantial, consideration for a wider range of support to primary and high school students will be considered. We are hopeful to have further information as early as Monday to help with this decision-making process.

More details will be provided to staff and families as further information becomes available. Plans regarding specific learning opportunities and dates for school openings will be communicated further at the school level and we will continue to provide briefings on a regular basis. It is important to know that we are planning to the best of our ability with the current information at hand. The situation remains fluid and complex and therefore we may need to adapt to emergent situations or challenges that we come across. We ask for your patience and understanding as we will need to be flexible in order to react to the needs of our students and community.

In closing we would also like to inform you that we are closely monitoring incoming weather warnings and any related alerts or orders. The safety of our students and staff is our top priority and with this in mind the district will be doing everything it can to support the community, remote learning and the safe return to face-to-face learning.

Sincerely,

Stephen McNiven
Superintendent of Schools