



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 47 (POWELL RIVER)
Board of Education
4351 Ontario Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 1V3
Telephone: 604 485 6271 Fax: 604 485 6435

September 16, 2021

Mr. Russell Brewer
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Powell River
6910 Duncan Street
Powell River, BC, V8A 1V4

Dear Russell,

We are writing this letter in response to your email to staff dated August 27, 2021, with respect to consideration for a rainbow crosswalk at the intersection of Selkirk/Nootka. The email outlined the City of Powell River's potential placement of a rainbow crosswalk at the intersection at Selkirk/Nootka and asked if School District 47 would be supportive of this initiative at that location.

The Board of Education consulted with the School District 47's SOGI District Administrator and SOGI District Lead for input prior to discussing the matter at the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 8, 2021. The Superintendent has also since requested that the School Principal consult with parents and staff at Westview Elementary.

SOGI-inclusive symbols like rainbow crosswalks demonstrate a commitment to inclusion and diversity and we wholeheartedly support these in our community and understand the importance of SOGI-inclusive environments to create positive and welcoming spaces for all people in our community.

As a City initiative, we would prefer to see a rainbow crosswalk in a location of higher visibility, such as the one at Joyce/Nootka. The entire qathet region would see this if it were at that location. A rainbow crosswalk at Selkirk/Nootka would mostly be used and viewed by the school community of Westview Elementary School and may be perceived by residents as a School and/or District initiative. Unless the City were considering rainbow crosswalks near all neighborhood schools, this is a perception we would prefer to avoid.

We appreciate the City of Powell River's advocacy for another rainbow crosswalk in Powell River and we support this initiative. The School District SOGI Committee plans to allocate funds and resources into a variety of SOGI initiatives as well. Pride flags, rainbow benches, rainbow stairs, and rainbow parking barriers will all be under consideration.

We would welcome further conversation on this topic with the City of Powell River and thank you again for your ongoing support and consideration for SOGI inclusive initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dale Lawson".

Ms. Dale Lawson
Chairperson
Board of Education, School District 47 (Powell River)
DL/ac