



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

April 25, 2016

Honourable Christy Clark
Premier, Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Clark,

Re: Take Action on Child Poverty

We are writing to you today to express our Board of Education's (School District #47 Powell River) support for the recommendations outlined in the 2015 BC Child Poverty Report Card published by First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, and to urge you to adopt them.

It is unacceptable that in a province as wealthy as ours, one out of every five children is living in poverty. In 2016, governments cannot claim to be ignorant of the abundant evidence of the harm done to children's health and development by growing up in poverty, nor of the huge additional costs in health care, education, the justice system and lost productivity which we are already paying by keeping poverty rates so high.

First Call's overarching recommendation is for BC to adopt a comprehensive poverty reduction plan with legislated targets and timelines and a cabinet minister with the authority and responsibility to ensure government is achieving its targets on time. They recommend that the plan contain a goal to reduce BC's child poverty rate to 7% or lower by 2020.

Child poverty is not inevitable. If the Provincial Government implemented the recommendations outlined in the Report Card, a dramatic reduction in child and family poverty in BC is possible.

Yours truly,

Mr. Doug Skinner
Chairperson
Board of Education
School District 47 (Powell River)

DS/ac

cc: Mr. John Horgan
Leader, New Democrat Official Opposition
Room 109, Legislative Building
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4