



École Salish Secondary

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Dear Graduates of 2020 and Parents/Guardians,

In the latest video message from Jordan Tinney, Superintendent of Surrey Schools, we learned that the Provincial Health restrictions put in place to combat further spreading of COVID-19 in BC will be extended through to the summer at least. This means that no large gatherings are permitted for the foreseeable future. As such, all traditional graduation events, including Salish's upcoming Commencement Ceremony, and the Dinner and Dance, unfortunately, will likely not take place this school year.

We know this is extremely disappointing and upsetting news, and we respect the range of emotions you must be feeling at this time. These are unprecedented times not just at Salish, but throughout the whole district, province, country and the world. Although it may not bring much comfort at this time, we need to remember that all our lives are being impacted in ways unimaginable, but we need to respect the urgency to protect our most vulnerable citizens.

Like you, we the staff at École Salish Secondary are devastated that we will not be able to honour and celebrate your life milestone in the same way it has been done in past years. But this does not mean your achievement of graduating from high school will go unrecognized. We still want to honour you, to award scholarships, and to recognize your feats. We now need to find a way to do that without jeopardizing anyone's health. This is a monumental task, but a challenge the staff and administration are willing to embrace.

In the coming days, our Salish community will convene in our virtual spaces to begin the discussion about how we will proceed with finding another way to honour the Grads of 2020. With your help, as well as support from your peers, teachers, administrators and parents, I am confident that the resilient Salish community can work together to generate ideas and to find other viable options. Rest assured, the Graduating Class of 2020 will be honoured and celebrate in other meaningful ways.

Keep well.

Ms. Hammond, Mr. Tait, Mr. Mahli