



***Message from the Honourable
Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education***

Dear educators, school staff and leaders:

We are approaching the end of an historic year in education and before summer break begins, I wanted to acknowledge your dedication and commitment to students and colleagues.

You have risen to meet every challenge and have done so much to protect student safety and wellbeing. You have led in your schools and districts with compassion, strength and resiliency. It hasn't been easy, and that makes your achievements all the more remarkable.

On behalf of our government, the Ministry of Education and the communities you serve, we are deeply grateful for the positive and lasting impact your work will have on students for years to come.

Students benefitted in so many ways by staying connected to their schools, allowing them to maintain routines, stay on top of schoolwork and remain connected to friends, educators, and social supports. School is a safe haven for some of our province's most vulnerable children. By keeping schools open, students had access to mental health supports, including counsellors, and were provided meal programs at a time when some families were struggling financially.

It has been a monumental collective effort to make it through this year. I would like to recognize all education partners: educators, school trustees, parents, Rightsholders, school staff, leadership, public health and others. Collaboration and unity helped keep schools open and safe. I am committed to continuing to work closely with you as we move out of the pandemic.

A brighter future is clearly on the horizon with the province's vaccine rollout well underway. We expect a near-normal return to school in the fall. We will also continue to monitor COVID activity in communities this summer and work with our public health experts and all education partners as we plan for September.

Thank you again for your extraordinary work and commitment this year to put student wellness and learning first. You have my deepest gratitude.

I wish you all a restful and joyful summer break, and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Whiteside".

Jennifer Whiteside
Minister of Education