



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

January 25th, 2019

Mr. Rick Jensen, Chair
Columbia Basin Trust
Suite 201, 828 Baker Street
Cranbrook, BC V1C 1A2

Dear Rick,

"A Society grows great when individuals plant trees whose shade they will never see"

--Anon

On behalf of the School District 5 (SD5), Southeast Kootenay Board of Education, I wanted to share a few thoughts from a Basin guy with a few years of local government, education and volunteer service experience, about how the District and the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) might partner together for the benefit of the communities we jointly serve.

Schools are the heart of a community and the cultural glue of the Basin. At present, there are seven (7) school districts, with a student population of approximately 20,000 attending public school within the thirty (30) communities located in the Columbia River Basin (Basin) region. In SD5 alone, we have seventeen (17) schools across four (4) communities, with 5544 students.

It is the Board's sincere belief that there is a valuable opportunity for increased partnership between school districts and the CBT; that a sharing of resources, funding and decision-making would increase the ability of school districts to better serve the *whole* community, advancing the quality of life for all 155,000-plus citizens served by the CBT, beyond what either entity can achieve separately. We believe that the benefits derived from such a partnership would far outweigh any obligations such an enterprise might require.

For these reasons, our Board would like to request that the CBT consider the prospect of entering into an agreement with school districts by allocating CBT

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funds on an annual basis for replacement or improvement of learning facilities within the Basin.

Investing in the Basin's future by supporting the capital budget functions of school districts would be a catalyst for districts to secure federal, provincial, regional, municipal and corporate partnerships, enabling districts to better assist in the actualization of dreams for students, families and communities throughout the Basin region.

Our Board would be prepared to discuss this concept in greater detail with the appropriate personnel of the CBT, at their convenience.

Let us work together to plant some educational trees in the Columbia Basin!

Sincerely,



Frank Lento, SD5 Board Chair

Cc: School Boards with schools located in the Columbia Basin Region:

Board, School District 6, Rocky Mountain

Board, School District 8, Kootenay Lake

Board, School District 10, Arrow Lakes

Board, School District 19, Revelstoke

Board, School District 20, Kootenay Columbia

Board, School District 57, Prince George

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