

September 25, 2024

Ref: 301804

Carolyn Broady, President
British Columbia School Trustees Association

Email: cbroady@bcsta.org

Dear Carolyn Broady:

Thank you for your letter of September 9, 2024, to the Minister of Education and Child Care, regarding a motion passed at the BC School Trustee Association Annual General Meeting in April 2024 on anti-bullying measures.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has refreshed the <u>Expect Respect and a Safe</u> <u>Education (erase) website</u>. Launched on Friday, September 6, 2024, the new website features a streamlined design with improved access to information and resources for students, adults, and school staff. Content has been reviewed and updated, including the definition of <u>bullying</u> to incorporate power imbalances.

Using a mobile-first design, users can access topics like diversity and inclusion, mental health and substance use, and school and online safety easily and on any device. Focused collections of content for students, adults, and school staff make it quick and easy to find what's most relevant to you. In addition, users have quicker access to the Report It tool, an online reporting tool available for students to submit an anonymous report if they see or hear something of concern.

The Ministry has worked with students, families, educators, and education and community partners to ensure the new website aligns with best practices, current evidence, and reflects the needs of the sector. It provides improved accessibility of information as well as updated resources to support students, parents/caregivers, school staff, and community partners in navigating challenges, reporting concerns to schools, and learning about complex issues facing students. In addition, the website will soon be made available in both French and English.

There are also new promotional materials – two new animated videos, <u>Learn</u> about *erase* and <u>What is the Report It tool?</u>, provide key information and guidance on how to use and access the website and online reporting tool. These videos will be available in the 10 most commonly spoken languages in BC. In addition, a new <u>downloadable *erase* poster</u> and <u>cling</u> <u>decal</u> with the Report It tool QR code have been developed. School districts will receive a sample package of new materials for distribution in schools.

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Please reach out if you have any questions or feedback on the revised erase website. Thank you for your dedication to supporting students and helping to build safe, caring and inclusive school communities.

Sincerely,

Jennifer McCrea

Acting Deputy Minister