

January 14th, 2025

Reference: 642217

Carolyn Broady
President
British Columbia School Trustees Association
Email: cbroady@bcsta.org

Dear Carolyn Broady:

Thank you for your correspondence received on September 17th, 2024, addressed to Tara Richards, former Deputy Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), concerning the British Columbia School Trustees Association's request for the Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC) to work with EMCR to ensure school districts are included in emergency communications (e.g., evacuation orders and alerts). I am responding as the current Deputy Minister.

EMCR recognizes and appreciates the crucial role that school districts play in ensuring the safety of students, staff, and the broader community during emergency events. We understand that timely, relevant, and accurate information is essential in helping school districts fulfill this important responsibility.

Local authorities are responsible for communicating emergency information and notifications to partners within their jurisdiction. To support communication and preparedness, we encourage school districts to connect with the First Nation communities, municipalities and regional districts in which they operate and discuss emergency communication protocols so they receive the critical information needed to respond effectively in such situations. In addition, we encourage school districts to follow and monitor EmergencyInfoBC (<https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>; [@EmergencyInfoBC](#) on X/Twitter), where they can receive accurate, reliable and timely emergency notifications.

EMCR has reached out to ECC regarding your concerns and can confirm that ECC actively supports schools, districts and child care centres on school grounds related to evacuation orders and alerts. ECC monitors evacuation and alert orders and engages with affected schools and districts. ECC also shares with the education sector emergency management resources that district and school administration as well as child care operators can use to support planning and response. ECC has a website dedicated to Emergency Management Planning for Schools, Districts and Authorities ([Emergency Management Planning for Schools, Districts and Authorities - Province of British Columbia](#)).

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Teresa Dobmeier
Deputy Minister

CC: The Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care
Kathryn Krishna, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Child Care
Mike Russell, British Columbia School Trustees Association
Board of Directors, British Columbia School Trustees Association