



October 20, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

As we continue to navigate the pandemic, we are reaching out to both thank you for everything you are doing to support our joint efforts and to express our support for the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.

Throughout the pandemic you have remained vigilant, and we are deeply grateful for all you have done and continue to do. We encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated, if they have not yet done so, as it is an important layer of protection. The data is clear in British Columbia that vaccination protects against serious illness and loss of life.

We continue to collaborate for the benefit of all, as partner groups: the Burnaby Teachers' Association, CUPE Local 379, the Burnaby Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association, the District Parent Advisory Council and the Burnaby School District. As we have for more than 18 months as part of the Pandemic Response Committee, we meet weekly to collaborate, monitor and respond to emerging events with a thoughtful and coordinated approach.

We want to be clear that we collectively support vaccination as an important way to protect everyone in our workplaces and school communities, and especially those who cannot be vaccinated or are immune compromised. You may also be aware that the Burnaby Board of Education and others across the province are awaiting information from the provincial government's advisory committee that will include guidance for school boards regarding possible mandatory vaccination for staff. There is much to consider in what actions contribute to a helpful COVID-19 mitigation strategy in Burnaby.

As we work together to keep each other and our school communities safe, we want to acknowledge and thank principals, vice-principals, teachers, support staff, all school and district staff, students and families. Safety protocols are only effective if people follow them, and we thank each of you for continuing to care for and protect each other.

Sincerely,

**Daniel Tétrault**  
President  
Burnaby  
Teachers'  
Association

**Paul Simpson**  
President  
CUPE Local 379

**Frankie DeVita**  
President  
Burnaby  
Principals' &  
Vice-Principals'  
Association

**Ashley Sandquist**  
Chair District  
Parent Advisory  
Council

**Gina Niccoli-Moen**  
Superintendent  
Burnaby Schools

**Jen Mezei**  
Chair  
Burnaby Board  
of Education