



December 6, 2022

Ref: 283832

Mark Pendergraft, Chair  
Regional District of Okanagan-Simikameen  
**Email: [mpendergraft@rdos.bc.ca](mailto:mpendergraft@rdos.bc.ca)**

Dear Mark Pendergraft:

I am writing to thank you for meeting with me on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention (UBCM) in Whistler. We were very fortunate to be able to meet in person this year.

I can understand that the concern that was raised around boundary issues, enrolment, and access to education in the Apex Mountain community is troublesome. The story you shared regarding the parent who had their child live with family in another community for the week just to ensure they could attend school is something no British Columbian should have to face.

In our meeting, we discussed your concerns about the school district boundaries and the issues they cause for families in the Apex Mountain community. The Ministry's School District Boundary Change [Guidelines](#) assist in navigating the process for altering school district boundaries. It is important for the local boards of education to be involved in any proposal to change school district boundaries. To this end, I recommend that you follow-up with the newly elected boards of the Okanagan Similkameen School District and the Okanagan Skaha School District.

Please note that a change to a school district boundary would likely require changes to the trustee electoral areas of the affected school districts. The Trustee Variation [Guidelines](#) provide guidance on proposing changes to trustee electoral areas.

Ministry staff will also follow up with the school districts to discuss this issue and will reach out when they have more information. If you have any questions in the interim, please contact Cloe Nicholls, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Governance and Analytics Division by email at [cloe.nicholls@gov.bc.ca](mailto:cloe.nicholls@gov.bc.ca).

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Thank you again for meeting and sharing your concerns. Your support and commitment to your community is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Whiteside". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jennifer Whiteside  
Minister

pc: Cloe Nicholls, Assistant Deputy Minister, Governance and Analytics Division