

MINUTES for the meeting of the **SD71 District Parent Advisory Council**, held via **Zoom** on **MONDAY April 4th** at 6:30pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Jennifer Fisher* - DPAC Chair & Robb Road
Megan Cowling - DPAC Vice Chair/Speaker Series
Jessica Wegg* - DPAC Secretary - Brooklyn
Spring Halasz* - DPAC Treasurer- Highland
Shannon Aldinger* - Isfeld Secondary
Sarah Shelin* - Aspen
Jocelyn Manley* - Vanier

Cristi May Sacht - Trustee
Janice Caton - Trustee
Shawn Thir*- Courtney EI/Lake Trail
Karen Parkinson*- Queneesh
Jen Storey* - Miracle Beach
Tom Demeo - SD71 Superintendent
Geoff Manning - SD71 Superintendent
Tami Servizi* - Valleyview Elementary

10 of 21 voting reps (min. of 7 req'd for quorum)

**indicates DPAC Rep*

1 Call to Order: 6:31pm Jennifer Fisher, Chair

Recognition of Traditional Territories

Introductions

Approval of the Minutes from *March 7th, 2022, Spring Motions, Megan seconded, Carried*

Approval of the Agenda for *April 4th, 2022, Jennifer Motion, Tami seconded. Carried*

2 Old Business

Parent email - Cell Phones in school

- Geoff -has been discussed with Senior Leadership
- Jocelyn - Oak Bay was the first to let cell phones in and the first to ban them. It is a hard balance as they can be used so much with creative learning.
- Janice - conversation has come up several times, Trustee Association has left it to every district.
- Tom - varies amongst schools and classes. From a school perspective if a phone is taken away we get a call from an upset parent. Better to have these conversations at the school level with Admin. Northern District put in a scrambler and it didn't go over well, with legal ramifications.
- Shawn - Courtenay EI has zero tolerance.
- Jen Storey - previous district has used scrambler to keep some websites out of the school. Need to be mindful of the hard push, teaching media literacy and digital citizenship is the way to go.

- Tom Demeo - many websites are blocked and students will get a Red Screen that shows it's not allowed - this is constantly updated. The province has a screen, and the district has a screen. Appropriate use of technology is tough.
- Joceyln - parents have the option to call the school to get a message to their child to avoid calling on a cellphone, but technology literacy needs to start early. Consider The Social Dilemma. It might be too late for some kids, and certainly for some adults - if it's something we're going to work on, we need to start early. School-by-school or classroom-by-classroom is not helpful because there's no consistency.
- Tom Demeo - schools spend a lot of time discussing cell phone policy. Most of the Secondary schools have phones-as-tools only policies. The elementaries don't need them.
- Megan C - caveat for elementaries - she knows a child who can monitor his blood sugar (and so can his mom on the app) and they can communicate as issues arise.
- Shannon - the conversation is useful on a school-by-school basis, but it is also useful to have at a district level. It should be taken back to PACs and kept on the agenda for at least one other round.

3 Correspondence

- BCCPAC K-12 Consultation on Proposed 2022 BC School Food Guidelines. The Ministries of Health and Education are requesting BCCPAC member DPACs and PACs feedback on proposed changes to the [2013 Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools](#).
- BCCPAC -Parent Education Conference and Annual General Meeting, in-person, in Richmond BC on April 29 - May 1.
 - Megan Cowling
 - Shannon Aldinger
- Motion to cover the costs of hotel and ferry and attendance
 - Jen Fisher Moves
 - Jen StoreySeconds
 - Motion passed

4 Reports

DPAC Chair - Jennifer Fisher

- Budget Committee feedback?
 - Karen's idea: look at bussing for alternative programs (FI, Montessori, etc.) - find out how many people would be interested in this
 - TD: District has a policy of never bussing for programs of choice; they will bus to your catchment. There are sometimes courtesy seats, but not dedicated buses. Many children would be coming in from quite far, which would make for difficult routes.
 - Janice: In 2003, the Board decided to only bus to catchment schools. Bill is between \$2-3Million/year to bus students. \$55-\$75K per route per bus. If District charges for bussing, the Ministry will reduce funding. This is reviewed every year as part of the budget.

- Karen: Can you explain courtesy bussing?
 - Janice: Courtesy looks at walk distance and also alternative pickup spots (if child's parent works downtown, for example)
 - Geoff Manning: A student could bus to his/her catchment school and possibly walk to his/her school from there.
- Karen: Considering ERR as an example, where kids from all over attend, what if there were a few bus pick up spots (four or five spots) so there isn't a long, winding route; like a bus stop.
 - TD: The big decision is whether the Board would approve bussing for choice programs. You'd have to look at the whole gamut - not only for FI (for example), but for all of them (Explore program, Hockey program). The gas prices will be affecting the District as well.
- The budget committee usually only has \$50-60k extra to consider.
 - Jen Storey: Request for FTE hours for counselors
 - Yes, it's in there every year.
 - Karen: Could we use some money to help with backlog of assessments
- BCCPAC AGM & Conference
 - See above

DPAC Treasurer- Spring Halasz

- \$1303.39 Gaming
- \$5266.46 Non-Gaming
- \$6569.85 TOTAL
- The only thing that has gone through accounts since last meeting is payment of \$800 to MAR for speaker fee and book baskets

Sexual Health Committee- Shannon Aldinger

- Not much to report with respect to what's going on the district
- The following resolutions were approved by BCCPAC (and are also all attached)
 - [Action against peer-to-peer sexual misconduct](#)
 - [Action to address peer-to-peer sexual harassment](#)
 - [Action to address peer-to-peer sexual assault - response protocol](#)
 - [Action to address peer-to-peer sexual assault/exploitation: data collection & analysis](#)
 and will be voted upon at its 2022 Annual General Meeting (April 1 & May 1, 2022) and are included in its 2022 AGM Booklet (at pp. 30-33):
<https://bccpac.bc.ca/images/AGM/2022-AGM-Booklet.pdf>
- The Sexual Health Committee will reach out by email to voting members of BCCPAC to provide information about how to cast proxy votes at the AGM (through Shannon Aldinger (Isfeld Rep) or Megan Cowling (Brooklyn Rep) who will attend the AGM in person.) Voting members are: Aspen, Brooklyn, Cumberland, Puntledge, Robb Road, Highland, Huband, Isfeld, Navigate, Queneesh, Royston and Valley View
- Jen Storey: What are the benefits of joining BCCPAC? (Other than voting/supporting resolutions at the AGM)
 - Jen F: It is the parents' voice at a provincial level.

- Megan C: You can message them and ask them for things (Constitution, bylaws, traditional practices, etc.). There're parent education options a few times a year that are usually excellent. Advocacy part is important.
- Jen F: They're a great resource if there's a PAC that's struggling or there are other issues (John Batesman and Paula Fowler). They have different rewards to honour parents. It's not a lot of money, but it is a good resource if needed.
- Shannon:
 - There has been positive feedback about our resolutions from other PACS (Kamloops/Okanagan).
 - Does anyone have any questions about the resolutions?
 - Megan C: Thanks for your work on them.
 - Sarah Shelin: When/where/how can we read other resolutions?
 - Jen will put together a link to these.
 - Megan C: Some of the resolutions are really interesting, e.g., putting in a screening program in K and Grade 1; helping rural kids get to school.

Speaker Series Committee - Megan Cowling

- Megan: Thanks Spring for paying the invoice. One of our DPAC parents (Nadia - Puntledge Park) has picked up the Book Baskets in Victoria and is bringing them back. Jen and Meg will deliver this Thursday.
 - 3 Grade 10 Baskets
 - 1 General High School Basket
 - 1 Grade 7 Basket
 - 4 General Elementary Baskets
 - 1 Grade 4 Basket
- May is Community Resiliency Month - there is an event "Building Resiliency in Children, Families, and Communities" - workshop on May 14, 2022 Time TBA
 - Would DPAC be willing to cover childcare for this event? The event is free, open to the community, and open to all parents of children 0-12.
 - Megan moved to approve up to \$300 to pay for childcare for this event
 - Shannon Second
 - Motion Passed
 - Karen: How do people register?
 - Megan: Likely Eventbrite. It's not out yet.
 - Thanks to Shawn, who has been very helpful with this.

Superintendent Report - Tom Demeo

- Two weeks of Spring Break - not a lot to report. April is interesting - gearing toward next year, as we wrap this year up. First day back today after the change in the mandate re masks - no major issues were reported. (Some things may have happened). Some students and staff continued to wear masks, which was completely acceptable. The next date we're looking at is April 8, when all restrictions are lifted (events, capacity, etc.). The District sent out a letter last week about travel restrictions (masks required for 14 days if travel out of country). It was a good day back.

- Geoff: re registration - over spring break, 30 new students registered for next year. That was a significant bump over before. We will also be receiving a few families from Ukraine over the next couple of weeks, and we are looking forward to helping those families out.

Trustees - Crista May Sacht & Janice Caton

- Janice: a few weeks ago, the MOE changed its name. It's now the Ministry of Education and Childcare. Still working on how this will affect District.
- School Trustee AGM is in a few weeks - will do strategic planning then. They've been told that there is no new money. There will be money for additional students, but as to operations - status quo. Our district has been very frugal, thoughtful, and careful with regard to how it manages its budget. We have been doing well, but other districts have not fared so well. We look forward to hearing from parents and community about their ideas, but bare in mind the tiny budget.

5 New Business

- Nothing

6 Upcoming Events

- Nothing

7 PAC Sharing

- Karen: If there is a parent who is having difficulty advocating for their child, is there any support the District can give them?
 - Jen: Yes, absolutely. Email DPAC.
- Shawn: Shout out to the District maintenance staff - they finished the ramp and built a storage shed for the garden on the primary side. As the shed was finishing, Shawn took delivery of a commercial fridge and freezer, they saw Shawn struggling to move them into the school, and they came over to help. Thank you!
- Shawn: Families who are moving from Royston to Courtenay EI came to the get-together despite the blustery weather on that day. It was good.
 - TD: Thank you for doing that. It was a tough situation, a tough decision for the Board, and we're grateful to your PAC for doing that.
- Shawn: NIC is holding a STEM and Sport camp at Courtenay EI this summer. Registration is open.
- Jen Fisher: We are renting our gym spaces and other spaces out to community groups.

8 Next Meeting: Monday May 2nd 2022, via Zoom

[https://comoxvalleyschools-ca.zoom.us/j/67144640883?pwd=emZBWVQxTTRKQU42aGdoUVErR2lr dz09](https://comoxvalleyschools-ca.zoom.us/j/67144640883?pwd=emZBWVQxTTRKQU42aGdoUVErR2lrdz09)

9 Adjourn - Jen moves to adjourn at 7:41, Tammy 2nd, Motion passed.



BCCPAC
BC Child Care
Parent Advisory Council

Title of Resolution: Action against peer-to-peer sexual misconduct

SUBMISSION CONTACT INFORMATION

Member DPAC/PAC: Comox Valley Schools DPAC SD # 71

The Proposer's Representative may be contacted by the Resolutions Committee.

Proposer's Representative: Shannon Aldinger

Representative's Email Address: aldinger@aldingerlaw.com

Representative's Phone Number: (778) 992-0054

Date Submitted: Feb 22, 2022

I agree to the release of my contact information to voting members during the Resolution process.

Proposer's Representative's Signature: 

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned DPAC/PAC Executives, certify that our DPAC/PAC members have been consulted and support submission of this Resolution.

Executive Member #1

Full Name: Jennifer Fisher Position: Chair

Email: jennf@telus.net Phone: (604) 595-2823

Signature: 

Executive Member #2

Full Name: Megan Cowling Position: Vice-Chair

Email: meganrcowling@gmail.com Phone: (604) 741-2495

Signature: 

Title of Resolution: Action against peer-to-peer sexual misconduct

Type of Resolution: Ordinary

Submitted By: Comox Valley Schools DPAC, SD71 (Shannon Aldinger)

Resolution Wording:

BCCPAC advocates for the Ministry of Education to take bold action to address peer-to-peer sexual assault & sexual harassment, including:

- To develop and promote public awareness/education campaigns to combat peer-to-peer sexual assault and sexual harassment, and to include bystander training;
- To include sexual violence/misconduct (including assault and harassment) among the listed “Services & Information Topics” on the homepage of the ERASE website and any other key resources used by the province to promote student safety and wellness; and
- To develop and implement mandatory curriculum about sexual consent for all students, including grades 11 and 12.

Proposer’s Position Statement Supporting the Resolution:

Rates of sexualized violence remain alarming. The most recent Stats Canada statistics reports that 1 in 3 girls/women and 1 in 6 boys/men in Canada are sexually assaulted in their lifetime, with girls between the ages of 14 to 24 being the most vulnerable, and girls between 15-17 reporting the highest rates of assault. Girls who are indigenous, LGBTQ or have a disability experience even higher rates.¹

Disturbingly, the most recent McCreary Centre’s Report on its BC Adolescent Health Survey (2018)² had as a key finding that reports of sexual assault, dating violence, and sexual harassment have all increased from its previous report in 2013 (at p. 8)

¹ Statistics Canada: Violence Against Women Survey, 1993 & Measuring violence against women: Statistical Trends (2013); Department of Justice Canada, *Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Youth: A Fact Sheet*; Report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women: *Taking Action to End Violence Against Young Women and Girls in Canada* (March 2017); see also: <http://sacha.ca/resources/statistics>)

² The BC Adolescent Health Survey is described by the McCreary Centre Society as “the most reliable, comprehensive survey of youth aged 12-19 in British Columbia”. In 2018, over 38,000 young people aged 12-19 in 58 of BC’s 60 school districts completed the survey. https://www.mcs.bc.ca/about_bcahs

The increasing availability of and access to on-line pornography by children³ does nothing to improve the situation. Research shows that adolescent exposure to pornography:

- Portrays women as sex objects/sexually submissive (Peter & Valkenburg, 2008);
- Fosters an acceptance of sexual coercion (To et al, 2012); and
- Encourages and supports teenage sexual aggression (Wright et al, 2016).⁴

The McCreary survey also revealed that the majority of students are *not* sexually active by the end of grade 10⁵; however grade 10 is the last year that physical health education (which includes sexual health) is mandatory⁶. This means that most students are not receiving any sexual health (or consent) education as they become sexually active. And if a student does not attend college/university, grade 10 may be the last time they receive any education about sexual consent.

Consent education should extend beyond the curriculum and permeate school culture. Province-wide sexual assault and harassment prevention campaigns combined with adding “sexual violence/misconduct” to the listed safety priorities on the Erase website’s homepage⁷ would also increase student awareness and emphasize sexual violence prevention as a priority.

Implementers: Ministry of Education

Interested Parties: Attorney General, BC School Trustees Association, Boards of Education

³ Average age of first exposure is 11-12; a Canadian study of teenagers with an average age of 14 found that 90% of boys and 60% of girls had watched pornography, with 1/3 of boys and 2% of girls doing so at least once a month (Flood, 2009): Dr. Claire Vanston PhD’s Families, Classrooms, Kids and Sex Ed: Working Together to Raise Safe, Informed, Compassionate Children (November 2018)

⁴Dr. Claire Vanston PhD’s Families, Classrooms, Kids and Sex Ed: Working Together to Raise Safe, Informed, Compassionate Children (November 2018)

⁵ Supra note 3, at p. 42.

⁶ <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

⁷ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase> – to be included under “Services & Information Topics”

Title of Resolution: Action to address peer-to-peer sexual assault – response protocol

Type of Resolution: Ordinary

Submitted By: Comox Valley Schools DPAC, SD71 (Shannon Aldinger)

Resolution Wording:

BCCPAC advocates for the Ministry of Education to review and revise the Safe and Caring Communities policy (and any other relevant policies such as the Handbook for Action on Child Abuse & Neglect) to include measures to address and provide clear guidance about how to respond to student complaints of *peer-to-peer* sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and sexual assault.

Proposer’s Position Statement Supporting the Resolution:

In 2016, the province recognized sexual violence as a problem warranting bold action in post-secondary institutions. It legislated mandatory reporting protocols for sexual assault at all post-secondary institutions and later committed \$760,000 for further improvements.

Similarly bold action is needed in BC’s public schools as districts (and schools) lack comprehensive policies to address peer-to-peer sexual misconduct. There is no guidance from the province about how schools/districts should respond to student complaints/disclosures of peer-to-peer sexual assault or exploitation, including where the alleged conduct occurs *off or away from* a school/district property/event. As a result, policies vary between districts and similarly lack clear direction.

The province’s Safe and Caring School Communities policy attempts to assist districts to create safe and inclusive learning environments and to address “worrisome behaviours”, but offers no guidance in relation to student complaints of *peer-to-peer* sexual harassment, exploitation and assault.

The province’s Handbook for Action on Child Abuse & Neglect references the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* which legislates a “duty to report” to “the director of MCFD”¹ any child who is deemed to be “in need of protection”². It lists circumstances under which a child would be so deemed, but most subsections deal with harm/abuse/neglect to a child by the child’s parent and none deal with peer-to-peer sexual violence.³

¹ *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, [RSBC 1996] c. 46, s. 14

² *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, [RSBC 1996] c. 46, s. 13

³ When protection is needed

13 (1)A child needs protection in the following circumstances:

- (a)if the child has been, or is likely to be, physically harmed by the child's parent;
- (b)if the child has been, or is likely to be, sexually abused or exploited by the child's parent;
- (c)if the child has been, or is likely to be, physically harmed, sexually abused or sexually exploited by another person and if the child's parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child;
- (d)if the child has been, or is likely to be, physically harmed because of neglect by the child's parent;
- (e)if the child is emotionally harmed by

But neither policy sets out specific requirements, or even guidance, as to how school/district personnel should respond to a student complaint/report of sexual harassment, assault or exploitation by another student.

The *Criminal Code of Canada* also lacks guidance as it does not include a duty to report a crime.

Clear guidance regarding how to respond to complaints of peer-to-peer sexual assault/exploitation are needed to advance the goals of sexual assault prevention and sexual equality in public education.

Implementers: Ministry of Education

Interested Parties: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions, Attorney General, BC School Trustees Association, Boards of Education

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- (i)the parent's conduct, or
 - (ii)living in a situation where there is domestic violence by or towards a person with whom the child resides;
 - (f)if the child is deprived of necessary health care;
 - (g)if the child's development is likely to be seriously impaired by a treatable condition and the child's parent refuses to provide or consent to treatment;
 - (h)if the child's parent is unable or unwilling to care for the child and has not made adequate provision for the child's care;
 - (i)if the child is or has been absent from home in circumstances that endanger the child's safety or well-being;
 - (j)if the child's parent is dead and adequate provision has not been made for the child's care;
 - (k)if the child has been abandoned and adequate provision has not been made for the child's care;
 - (l)if the child is in the care of a director or another person by agreement and the child's parent is unwilling or unable to resume care when the agreement is no longer in force.
- (1.1)For the purpose of subsection (1) (b) and (c) but without limiting the meaning of "sexually abused" or "sexually exploited", a child has been or is likely to be sexually abused or sexually exploited if the child has been, or is likely to be,
- (a)encouraged or helped to engage in prostitution, or
 - (b)coerced or inveigled into engaging in prostitution.

Duty to report need for protection

- 14 (1)A person who has reason to believe that a child needs protection under section 13 must promptly report the matter to a director or a person designated by a director.
- (2)Subsection (1) applies even if the information on which the belief is based
- (a)is privileged, except as a result of a solicitor-client relationship, or
 - (b)is confidential and its disclosure is prohibited under another Act.
- (3)A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence.
- (4)A person who knowingly reports to a director, or a person designated by a director, false information that a child needs protection commits an offence.
- (5)No action for damages may be brought against a person for reporting information under this section unless the person knowingly reported false information.
- (6)A person who commits an offence under this section is liable to a fine of up to \$10 000 or to imprisonment for up to 6 months, or to both.
- (7)The limitation period governing the commencement of a proceeding under the *Offence Act* does not apply to a proceeding relating to an offence under this section.

Title of Resolution: Action to address peer-to-peer sexual harassment

Type of Resolution: Ordinary

Submitted By: Comox Valley Schools DPAC, SD71 (Shannon Aldinger)

Resolution Wording:

BCCPAC advocates for the Ministry of Education to develop & implement a province-wide mandatory policy to address peer-to-peer sexual harassment in schools.

Proposer's Position Statement Supporting the Resolution:

The #MeToo movement revealed sexual harassment¹ and sexual assault as widespread and deeply entrenched societal problems. Sexual harassment is often considered a problem that happens among adults - on the job or when starting college or university - but for many it starts in school and sometimes as early as elementary/middle school.

The most recent McCreary Centre's BC Adolescent Health Survey (2018)² revealed that 50% of female students aged 12 to 19 reported having experienced verbal sexual harassment in the previous year and 31 had experienced physical sexual harassment.³ Non-binary youth reported experiences physical and verbal sexual harassment at similar rates.

Similar rates were cited in the Harvard Graduate School of Education's 2017 report "[The Talk: How Adults Can Promote Young People's Healthy Relationships and Prevent Misogyny and Sexual Harassment](#)"⁴. The Harvard report included among its key findings that:

¹ Sexual harassment can take many forms, including sexual gestures, sexual jokes, being catcalled, insults with sexualized words, being the target of sexual rumours or of lewd or prolonged staring, unwanted sharing/display of pornography, being touched, grabbed or pinched in a sexual way, requests/demands for sexual images/videos.

The effects of being sexually harassed can be significant and long lasting And can include: decreased academic performance including missing or withdrawing from school; negative emotions such as confusion, anger, sadness; decreased self-esteem/confidence; psychosomatic symptoms such as headaches, stomach aches, insomnia and irritability; suicidal thoughts, substance use, early dating, etc. See:
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FY850#:~:text=To%20help%20define%20the%20problem,sexual%20jokes%2C%20gestures%2C%20or%20remarks>

² The BC Adolescent Health Survey is described by the McCreary Centre Society as "the most reliable, comprehensive survey of youth aged 12-19 in British Columbia". In 2018, over 38,000 young people aged 12-19 in 58 of BC's 60 school districts completed the survey. https://www.mcs.bc.ca/about_bcahs

³ Representing an increase in verbal sexual harassment from 46% in 2013 and an increase in physical sexual harassment from 26% in 2013; *supra*, at p. 72

⁴https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b7c56e255b02c683659fe43/t/5bd51a0324a69425bd079b59/1540692500558/mcc_the_talk_final.pdf

At page 16, the report cites a national report indicating that nearly half of students in grades 7-12 reported experiencing sexual harassment in the previous year.

- Misogyny and sexual harassment appear to be pervasive among and “afflict deeply troubling numbers of young people”, and certain forms of gender-based degradation may be increasing⁵;
- Misogyny and sexual harassment are damaging to their romantic relationships and rates of sexual assault among young people are high⁶;
- Despite these “deeply troubling numbers⁷”:
 - Young people are increasingly desensitized to misogyny and harassment⁸; and
 - Peer sexual harassment “largely flies under our [adult] radar,”⁹ with “Large numbers of parents, educators, and other adults appear to be either unaware of the seriousness of the problem or don’t know how to deal with it.”¹⁰

Tolerance of sexual harassment contributes to a culture which instills, promotes and accepts the message that girls/women are valued for their sexual appeal & services to boys/men and that non-binary youth/adults are different/other/unequal; it encourages male aggression and supports sexual violence. Districts and schools need provincial leadership to address this pervasive problem.

Implementers: Ministry of Education

Interested Parties: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions, Attorney General, BC School Trustees Association, Boards of Education

⁵ *Supra*, pp. 2, 16

⁶ *Supra*, p. 3

⁷ *Supra*, at p. 16.

⁸ The following comments of one 16 year old was highlighted in the Harvard study (at p. 16): “One thing that I think all girls go through at some age is the realization that their body, seemingly, is not entirely for themselves anymore ... the unfortunate thing is that we all just sort of accept it as a fact of life.”

⁹ *Supra*, p. 16.

¹⁰ *Supra*, p. 18

Title of Resolution: Action to address peer-to-peer sexual assault/exploitation: data collection & analysis

Type of Resolution: Ordinary

Submitted By: Comox Valley Schools DPAC, SD71 (Shannon Aldinger)

Resolution Wording:

BCCPAC advocates for the Ministry of Education to review and revise the Safe and Caring Communities policy (and any other relevant policies) to include measures to track and assess data regarding disclosures/complaints/reports of peer-to-peer sexual assault and sexual exploitation within districts.

Proposer's Position Statement Supporting the Resolution:

In recent years the BC government has recognized the need to collect and track race-based data as “a key mandate initiative to tackle systemic racism, hate and discrimination.”

Specifically, in June 2020 the Premier invited the Human Rights Commissioner and the Information and Privacy Commissioner to provide recommendations on how to collect, store, use and disclose data in a way that furthers the aim of substantive social equality but without reinforcing marginalization.

The report that followed¹:

- Noted the collection of data “is a human rights issue and can be used as a powerful tool in advancing human rights”, with the HRC stating “We cannot act on what we do not know. This is a call for knowledge.”
- Recommended the development of an Anti-Discrimination Data Act through ongoing consultation with the HRC and IPC so that it aligns with human rights advancement and conforms with Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation.
- Recommended that the legislation to be grounded in “the grandmother principle”, described by Gwen Phillips of the Ktunaxa Nation, a BC First Nations Data Governance Initiative Champion:

“First Nations governments are not wanting to operate with the big brother mentality that we’ve all been groomed into believing in relation to what data does to us—it’s more like we want to come from the grandmother perspective. We need to know because we care.”

¹ https://bchumanrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/BCOHRC_Sept2020_Disaggregated-Data-Report_FINAL.pdf

A similar initiative is needed to collect and assess data concerning disclosures/complaints/reports by students of peer-to-peer sexual violence.

Data collection, retention and assessment is a necessary tool to render a social problem visible, to measure progress (or decline), and to advance evidence-based policy-making. Disclosures/complaints/reports of sexual assault/exploitation are already notoriously underreported, and the province's current tools (erase and otherwise leaving processes to individual districts) are insufficient to address the problem.

Implementers: Ministry of Education

Interested Parties: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions, Attorney General, BC School Trustees Association, Boards of Education