



Comox Valley Schools

School District No. 71

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE COMMITTEE TRUSTEE REPORT FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Committee Membership:

Shannon Aldinger (Trustee, Committee Co-Chair)
Sarah Jane-Howe (Trustee, Committee Co-Chair)
Mireille Appelbe (Principal)
Stephanie Baker (Principal)
Jeannine Lindsay (District Vice Principal of Indigenous Education)
Jason McLean (Youth & Family Support Worker)
Stephanie Morris (Counselor)
Tara Ryan (District Vice-Principal of Inclusive Education)
Karla Lasota (District Outreach Counselor)
Brooke Finlayson (DPAC)

Background:

At its June 21, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, the Board of Education of Comox Valley Schools (SD71) unanimously passed a motion to establish a district wide committee to address the issue of gender-based violence among students. At its April 23, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, the Board of Education passed a motion to adopt the following Terms of Reference for the Gender-Based Violence Working Committee:

To review district policies, administrative procedures and other practices that relate to gender-based violence (GBV), to identify gaps in our district's approach and response to GBV, to identify and develop resources and best practices, to consult with community-based subject-matter experts, and to make recommendations to the superintendent and board.

The Committee first met in June 2024, held monthly meetings and conducted much of its work through the 2024/25 school year. It continued meeting into the fall of 2025 in relation to the preparation of its report, which was presented to the Board of Education at its Regular Board Meeting on November 25, 2025.

The Committee held its final meeting on January 28, 2026. Committee members were briefed on the Superintendent's report to the Board at its January 27 Regular Board Meeting about steps going forward to action the report. Committee members discussed further recommendations and resources that had come to light since the report's release in November 2025 and decided to incorporate those further recommendations and resources into a revised report (as attached). The revisions include the following:

- Recommendation to increase educational opportunities through sports teams (p. 12);
- Recommendations to increase collaboration with local municipalities and community partners to address gender-based violence throughout the Comox Valley and

consideration of opportunities to address gender-based violence when negotiating contracts with third parties such as bussing and facility-sharing (p. 17).

- Additional resources available through the Sex Information & Education Council of Canada (SIECCAN) (p. 26)

It is recommended that the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley):

1. Receive the Gender-Based Violence Working Committee's Revised Report, dated February 24, 2026 as presented.

Respectfully,

Shannon Aldinger

Shannon Aldinger, Trustee

Sarah Jane Howe

Sarah Jane Howe, Trustee