



October 27, 2020

Ref: 238757

Janet Fraser, Chair
Vancouver Board of Education
School District No. 39 (Vancouver)
Email: Janet.fraser@vsb.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Fraser:

Thank you for your email of September 11, 2020, regarding Canadian Black history curriculum and resources. As Deputy Minister of Education, I am pleased to respond.

Recent events in Canada and throughout the world illustrate the ongoing importance of teaching all students about diversity, multiculturalism, and minority rights. I am glad to hear that school districts like Vancouver are engaging with local community members to create anti-racism and Canadian Black history resources.

As you know, the provincial Social Studies curriculum has highlighted several important topics in Black history for British Columbia, Canada, and the world. There are also secondary school elective courses such as Social Justice 12 that engage on related topics such as diversity, multiculturalism, and minority rights in Canada, but there are always opportunities to further strengthen and enhance these important subjects. The Ministry of Education also encourages school districts to bring up and share the local history of various groups in their community—such as Black Canadians—and their considerable contributions to our history and society.

Since June 2020, Ministry staff reached out to many community groups related to Black History and anti-racism initiatives. The Ministry has engaged in conversations through a variety of ways, such as a community roundtable, anti-racism curriculum committee, and initiatives to promote student safety from racism and discrimination. These discussions have raised important issues and opportunities to enhance the overall teaching of topics related to anti-racism and Black History.

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While the Government of British Columbia is in an interregnum period due to the general election that took place on October 24, the Ministry will not be making decisions regarding the development of curriculum or educational resources until the government is formed and a new cabinet is sworn in. I look forward to continuing this important work under the mandate of a new government.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Scott MacDonald', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

D. Scott MacDonald
Deputy Minister