



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Letter of Support for LGBTQ2S+ Students, Staff and Families in SD6

Rocky Mountain School District No. 6 (SD6) and Rocky Mountain Teachers Association (RMTA) sign joint letter supporting LGBTQ2S+ Students, Staff and Families in SD6

INVERMERE, B.C., September 19, 2023

Dear Students, Staff, and Families,

We, the undersigned, are writing this joint letter to express our wholehearted support for inclusivity, diversity, and the promotion of human rights as defined in the Human Rights Code of Canada. In our commitment to fostering a more inclusive and equitable school district, we believe that embracing diversity and upholding the principles of inclusion based on gender identity is essential for the well-being and prosperity of our entire community.

We are dedicated to providing quality education and a safe environment for students, staff, and the community. We recognize the importance of respecting and celebrating the diverse identities and backgrounds of our students and employees. We are committed to creating a school environment that is safe, welcoming, and free from discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

As an educational system, we witness firsthand the harm caused by anti-LGBTQ2S+ campaigns. These conversations impact the students, staff, and families who require our support the most. We have made substantial progress in establishing safe, inclusive spaces in our schools and remain dedicated to ensuring that every student feels a deep sense of belonging. We consistently stand against disinformation aimed at undoing this progress.

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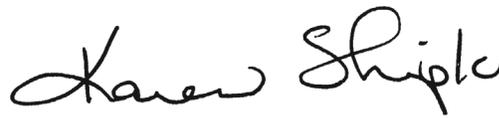


To our LGBTQ2S+ students, district staff, and families - we want to affirm our recognition of your presence, and we want to emphasize our unwavering support for you. You are an indispensable part of our school community, and we are firmly committed to nurturing an environment in which you can excel academically, socially, and emotionally. Your rights and dignity will always be upheld, and our commitment to constructing inclusive spaces that celebrate diversity will never waver.

Sincerely,



Amber Byklum, Chairperson



Karen Shipka, Superintendent



**Catherine McKenzie, Co-president, RMTA
President, RMTA Kimberley**



**Doug Murray, Co-president, RMTA
President, RMTA Windermere**



**Caroline Carl, Co-president, RMTA
President, RMTA Golden**

About SD6

School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) serves all communities from Kimberley to Golden. There are 18 schools including three alternate schools and one online school. Communities include: Golden, Nicholson, Windermere, Edgewater, Invermere, Canal Flats, and Kimberley.

The District serves approximately 3500 students, employs approximately 550 staff, and has an operating budget of approximately \$48 million dollars. Nine Trustees make up the Board of Education, three from each major community.

Contact(s)

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