



Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese

Office of the Superintendent

May 8, 2020

Dear parents, educators, and students,

On Wednesday, May 6, Premier John Horgan announced BC's Restart Plan, which is designed to move BC through the next steps of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important that everyone in our province be aware of this Plan and understands what Dr. Bonnie Henry, our Provincial Health Officer, calls our "new normal." Premier Horgan made it clear that this is not a return to normal and that the Plan will be implemented in a careful, step by step manner, so that what we have gained through our hard work to limit the spread of the virus will not be undone.

In the area of education, our administrators, teachers, education assistants, office and clerical staff together have done an outstanding job of delivering on-line continuity of learning in an environment that ensures the safety of both teachers and students. Our students are to be congratulated for taking on the challenge of continuing to grow through this new form of learning and for the expressions of love and concern many of them have shown for their educators. Staff members who are providing in-school support for Emergency Service Workers are doing an exceptional job. Along with these successes however, we are also aware that educating students at home is creating great challenges for many families. The plan addresses this:

*"An announcement on a phased approach to resuming in-class instruction will be made in the coming weeks. This will not be a return to normal. With weeks left in the school year, we anticipate many kids will not return to the classroom until September. But we are also exploring ways to safely get some kids back to school before the summer, to allow more parents to return to work. How these changes unfold are the focus of intensive discussion among Ministry of Education officials ... and other education sector partners."*¹

CISVA schools will continue their current practice of delivering on-line learning to students until we receive further guidance from the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Officer on how we can safely move forward. Our priority is to provide a safe environment for the return of our staff and students. The Superintendent's Office, together with our principals and teachers, will work together over the next weeks to move us safely into Phase 2 of the Provincial Plan, and you will be provided with details as this work progresses. This pandemic continues to be a great challenge for all of us and we pray for the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Henk Luyten
Superintendent

¹ BC'S Restart Plan. Next Steps to Move BC Through the Pandemic, p. 16.