

January 25, 2016

Mr. Mohammad Islam
President
Mother Language Lovers of the World Society of BC
16302 88 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
V4N 1B6

Dear Mr. Islam,

Thank you for presenting your brief to the Board of Education (Richmond) on January 4, 2016.

You presented a request on behalf of the Mother Language Lovers of the World Society of BC to include International Mother Language Day (February 21) as part of the District's school calendar.

On this special day of International Mother Language Day (IMLD), you have suggested that we celebrate all mother languages by their speakers e.g. First Nations, Aboriginals, Canadians, Immigrants, etc. It was interesting to learn from your presentation the following:

- it is important for our school children to be aware of IMLD and their mother languages;
- IMLD was formally proclaimed at the 30th General Conference of UNESCO held on November 17 in 1999;
- that this year, BC Government proclaimed IMLD to be February 21;
- Richmond is considered "a salad bowl" and this metaphor describes how people from multilingual and multicultural backgrounds blend together and live together as one nation to form a multicultural society.

As a result of your presentation and request, we will invite our schools to celebrate February 21 annually as International Mother Language Day (IMLD) in order to provide our students with the awareness about the importance of their mother languages.

Once again, thank you for your leadership in making this presentation to the Richmond Board of Education.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Debbie Tablotney, Chairperson
On Behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond)

cc Board of Education
Superintendent of Schools
Assistant Superintendents

Board of Education:

Debbie Tablotney - Chairperson
Donna Sargent - Vice Chairperson
Ken Hamaguchi Jonathan Ho Sandra Nixon
Eric Yung Alice Wong