

June 24, 2026

The Honourable David Eby
Premier of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Delivered Via Email

Dear Premier Eby,

Re: Permanent Standard Time and Student Safety

On behalf of the Board of Education of School District No. 47 (qathet), we are writing to encourage the Province of British Columbia to reconsider the adoption of permanent Pacific Daylight Time and instead implement permanent Standard Time.

As a Board of Education, our interest in this matter is grounded in the safety, well-being, and educational success of students. While we recognize that there are differing perspectives regarding time observance, we believe that decisions affecting all British Columbians should carefully consider the impacts on children and youth.

Student Safety

The Board is concerned about the effect that permanent Daylight Time would have on students travelling to school during the winter months. In the qathet region, where some schools begin as early as 8:00 a.m., students would be arriving at school before sunrise for a significant portion of the school year. Many students would travel to school in darkness or very low light conditions from approximately mid-November through mid-February.

These impacts are particularly significant in rural and remote communities. Many students in our district walk, cycle, or wait for school buses in areas with limited street lighting and pedestrian infrastructure. In some cases, students wait for transportation along rural roads and highways. Reduced morning daylight increases safety risks for students and may require additional supervision and operational supports from school districts.

The Board is particularly mindful of the impact on younger learners. Elementary-aged children may be expected to begin their day and travel to school in darkness during the winter months. We believe that policies affecting children should prioritize their safety and well-being.

Student Health and Readiness to Learn

The Board is also concerned about the potential impact of permanent Daylight Time on student health, attendance, and readiness to learn. Research has demonstrated the importance of morning light in supporting healthy sleep-wake cycles and regulating circadian rhythms. Morning daylight

supports alertness, concentration, and overall well-being, all of which contribute to success in school.

School districts throughout British Columbia continue to focus on improving student attendance, engagement, mental health, and academic achievement. We are concerned that increasing the number of mornings in which students wake, travel, and begin learning in darkness may work against these efforts. Policies that affect students' daily routines should support, rather than hinder, their readiness to learn.

Rural and Remote Equity

The Board is mindful that the impacts of permanent Daylight Time will not be experienced equally across the province. Rural, northern, and remote communities are likely to experience greater challenges than urban centres, creating inequities in student safety and daily school experiences.

Students in communities such as qathet often travel longer distances to school and may have fewer transportation and infrastructure supports available to them. We believe that the unique circumstances of rural and remote communities should be carefully considered before any permanent change is implemented.

For these reasons, the Board of Education of School District No. 47 (qathet) respectfully requests that the Province reconsider the implementation of permanent Pacific Daylight Time and instead adopt permanent Standard Time.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. We would welcome the opportunity to participate in further discussions regarding the impacts of permanent time observance on students and schools.

Sincerely,



Jaclyn Miller
Chairperson
Board of Education

cc: The Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care
The Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health
The Honourable Niki Sharma, Attorney General of British Columbia
British Columbia School Trustees Association
Randene Neill, MLA, Powell River–Sunshine Coast

