

MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Subject: COVID-19 – Graduation Ceremonies and Events Reinvented

Dear students and parents:

For graduating students, the closure of schools resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting graduation activities. Many of them are wondering how their academic achievements will be celebrated.

A provincial committee, made up of five school principals, four teachers, four students, and a representative of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, looked into ways of celebrating the accomplishments of graduates, while complying with Public Health measures related to COVID-19.

After analyzing the constraints and essential factors identified by the students, the committee concluded that it would be very difficult to respond to the realities of each school owing to differences in the number of graduates. The committee therefore looked into several possible scenarios for graduation ceremonies and proms, and concluded that it would be better for each school to develop its own plan locally.

One of the proposed scenarios would combine a virtual provincial component and a local component (virtual or in-person) so schools can put their own stamp on their graduation ceremonies, while complying with Public Health measures.

The option of postponing these events to a later date is not recommended given the time that could go by before large gatherings are permitted again. However, schools may choose to support future initiatives for students if they so wish.

In consultation with students and staff, principals are now working on developing a plan for their schools. The plan, which will be approved by May 26, 2020, will have to comply with Public Health measures. Obviously, these ceremonies will not look like what went on in the past, but the committee believes it will be possible to recognize student accomplishments in a special, unique way.

We realize that this matter is very important to graduating students. It is a major life stage that deserves to be celebrated in style.

Your school principal will share the plan with you soon.