



SCHOOL DISTRICT No.69 (QUALICUM)

November 23, 2016

Dear SD69 Parents:

School District 69 (Qualicum) is committed to helping students be successful. In all things we are guided by our District Strategic Priorities, which underscore the District's commitment to:

"Responding to the diverse social/emotional needs of our learners in ways that increase their chances of success"

We are constantly looking for creative ways to assist children and families in our District. It is with that goal in mind that we are sharing the following information with you. As the Board of Education for School District 69 (Qualicum) we wholeheartedly believe that having access to free government grants to save for your children's education after high school will have a tremendous impact on their future success. Research tells us that having even a small amount of money set aside for your children's education in the form of education savings plans makes them four times more likely to pursue post-secondary education. Whether your children want to be hairdressers or scientists, loggers or lawyers, having money set aside for them will give them options for a brighter future.

The Canada Learning Bond

If your child was born in 2004 or later and your family makes a combined household income of \$45,000 or less, you are eligible for up to \$2,000 of free money for your child's education after high school.

The Canada Learning Bond is \$500 and will be deposited when you set up a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) for your child at any financial institution. As long as your family remains eligible, an additional \$100 will be deposited into the RESP each year until your child turns 15.

It is free to open an RESP and you do not have to contribute any of your own money in order to receive the bond.

BC Training and Education Savings Grant

The Government of BC is now offering a onetime \$1,200 savings grant to all BC children that are between the ages of 6 and 9 provided that the child and parents are all BC residents and they already have an RESP set up for the child. Remember, it is free and easy to set up an RESP and access these grants.

If you are interested in setting up an RESP for your children and accessing these free grants, please contact your financial institution for more information or to make an appointment. If you have questions or want to learn more about this offer you can contact our colleagues at Vancouver Island University via email at clb@viu.ca or you can visit their website at www.viu.ca/clb.

We want to see all students in our District have options for a prosperous future. RESP's and education savings are one way that parents can prepare to support their children's dreams and aspirations.

Sincerely,

Eve Flynn, Board Chair

cc: Rollie Koop, Superintendent of Schools