



REGULAR BOARD MEETING ADDENDA

**TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020
3:00 PM
VIA ZOOM**

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

e. Receipt of Ministry News

- Free, live coding workshops for kids p 1-2
- BC grads, students to be celebrated by local artists performers p 3-5

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2020EDUC0035-000929
May 24, 2020

Ministry of Education

Free, live coding workshops for kids

VICTORIA – From creating online games to building websites, students now have access to free, live online coding workshops through the Ministry of Education website Keep Learning BC.

“Students need programs that will lead to 21st-century careers,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education. “With new access to live, weekly workshops from across the country through Canada Learning Code, B.C. students can expand their coding education, while learning from experts through real-time programs designed for specific age groups that will help engage young minds.”

Now available on Keep Learning BC, Canada Learning Code offers free, live workshops that students and educators can access that help students as young as nine years old learn how to code in different forms. This includes creating websites, online games and generative art, among others.

In addition, Canada Learning Code is also planning a virtual coding conference that students will be able to take part in this summer.

“We’ve reimagined our popular in-person learning experiences to create live online classes that are optimized for project-based, highly collaborative and interactive learning opportunities,” said Melissa Sariffodeen, CEO of Canada Learning Code. “At each workshop, there is a team of instructors to help youth discover the power of technology to solve problems and become builders - not just consumers of technology.”

The Ministry of Education created Keep Learning BC to help students and families stay engaged with their education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Along with learning resources, the website also includes helpful guides to maintain routines and stay safe online, giving parents information about how to talk to their children about COVID-19, along with other mental health resources to manage stress or anxiety.

Since it was launched, Keep Learning BC has been visited by more than 286,300 unique users.

Learn More:

New coding workshops are added each week and can be accessed through the Keep Learning BC website at: <https://www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning/>
Or directly at: <https://www.canadalearningcode.ca/live-online/>

Students, parents, guardians and teachers can find learning resources and accurate, timely information about schools, programs and educational services, including regularly updated

frequently asked questions at: www.gov.bc.ca/SafeSchools/

For non-health related information, including financial, child care and education supports, travel, transportation and essential service information, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/covid19
Or call 1 888 COVID19 (1 888 268-4319) between 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Pacific time), seven days a week.

Contact:

Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2020PREM0028-000940
May 25, 2020

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

B.C. grads, students to be celebrated by local artists, performers

VICTORIA – British Columbia’s 61,000 Grade 12 graduates, along with kindergarten to Grade 11 students, will be the guests of honour at a special virtual graduation and end-of-school celebration.

The WE Celebrate: Class of 2020 event will showcase some of B.C.’s best known singers, athletes and performers.

“I know this is not how graduates expected to celebrate their achievements, but that doesn’t diminish the occasion,” said Premier John Horgan. “Their parents, teachers and all British Columbians are proud of them. After they leave school, the whole world is there for them to explore. It will be a smaller world at first, but it will grow. As Dr. Bonnie Henry says, ‘It is for now, not forever.’ Congratulations to the class of 2020.”

British Columbia is a proud partner of the WE Celebrate: Class of 2020 event that will air at 10 a.m. (Pacific time) on May 26 on WE’s Facebook page and YouTube channel. The event, also celebrated with students in the Northwest Territories, will feature a star-studded lineup delivering Canada’s 2020 valedictorian addresses, one-of-a-kind performances and heartfelt surprises to celebrate students and educators who have been making a difference throughout the school year and who continue to step up to support their communities during COVID-19.

“Throughout this pandemic, our B.C. graduates have found new and innovative ways to make positive change in their communities, all while showing tremendous resilience, determination and patience,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education. “I’m so proud of B.C. grads. This may not be the way they envisioned marking this important occasion, but if ever there was a class that deserves a star-studded celebration like this, it’s the class of 2020.”

This ceremony is part of a week-long virtual road trip making online stops in the Prairies, Ontario, the East Coast and Quebec. The final stop, the biggest living room party of the school year, will air Saturday, June 6 at 8 p.m. (Eastern time/Pacific time) exclusively on CTV.

Led by hosts Tyrone Edwards, Liz Trinnear and Chloe Wilde from CTV’s ETALK, the British Columbia and the Northwest Territories’ WE Celebrate: Class of 2020 event will feature appearances by Craig Kielburger, Jacob Tremblay, Sarah McLachlan and many more.

Quotes:

Craig Kielburger, co-founder, WE –

“Now, more than ever, we need to draw strength from the care and compassion that young Canadians continue to show with their actions. During these uncertain times, it’s important

that we remain dedicated to celebrating students and teachers who have made lasting impacts in both their local and global communities. We are grateful to our partners for joining us along this journey and are deeply honoured to recognize the service achievements of young change makers, while bringing closure to the academic year in a powerful way.”

Andrea Sinclair, president, BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils –

“To all graduates: As Grade 12 students, you are facing a truly unique situation and will not experience a traditional graduation ceremony. However, all that you have learned and the supports you have received, all the successes you have achieved and the friendships you have made, will last a lifetime. On behalf of all the parents, guardians and caregivers across British Columbia, we applaud you. Please know how proud we are of each of you.”

Stephanie Higginson, president, BC School Trustees Association –

“The class of 2020 will be remembered in the history books. My heart goes out to the Grade 12 students who have had their graduation plans so unexpectedly interrupted. This may not be the grad that you had planned on, but hopefully this virtual celebration will be a small step in recognizing your hard work and your accomplishment. This celebration, with so many talented and extraordinary people coming together to recognize the accomplishments of the Class of 2020, is well deserved. Congratulations to all of you.”

Learn More:

View WE Celebrate: Class of 2020 (British Columbia and the Northwest Territories) Tuesday, May 26 at 10 a.m. (Pacific time):

On WE’s Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WEmovement/>

On WE’s YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/wemovement>

Stay connected with WE:

School year-end celebrations: <https://we.org/yearendcelebrations>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WEmovement/>

On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WEMovement>

On Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wemovement/>

#WECelebrate

@WEmovement

A backgrounder follows.

BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2020PREM0028-000940
May 25, 2020

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

Facts about the class of 2020, WE

Over 61,000 students are graduating this year in public and independent schools throughout British Columbia.

Since 2016, the B.C. government has provided \$1 million to WE Charity to support WE Day in Vancouver and the WE Schools program.

- The WE Schools program supports increased civic engagement locally and globally, and helps to increase academic engagement, as well as workplace and post-secondary readiness.
- The new WE Schools @Home program emphasizes social-emotional learning and resiliency, and offers tools and resources to support learning at home.
- WE Schools is offered in over 1,160 schools and groups in British Columbia, with more than 1,000 schools and 300,000 students engaged.

Through a partnership with the WE organization, the Province recently announced that K-12 students have access to a free, virtual WE well-being program in English and French.

WE enables youth and families to better the world.

- WE supports more than 7,200 local and global causes by volunteering millions of hours of service and raising millions of dollars that directly benefit the local communities and the world.

Contacts:

For non-medical information relating to
COVID-19:

Visit: www.gov.bc.ca/COVID19

Email: servicebc@gov.bc.ca

Or call: 1 888 COVID-19

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