

Leigh Glancie

From: Leigh Glancie
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 9:11 AM
To: Leigh Glancie
Subject: FW: For Board Review: Sworn Testimony on Children & Education (National Citizens Inquiry)

From: Laureen Heisler <laureenPSRA@shaw.ca>
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2026 10:56 AM
To: Jason Reid <jreid@saanichschools.ca>; Tim Dunford <tdunford@saanichschools.ca>; Nola Silzer <nsilzer@saanichschools.ca>; Keven Elder <kelder@saanichschools.ca>; Joyce Vandall <jvandall@saanichschools.ca>; Susan Hickman <shickman@saanichschools.ca>; Teri Vanwell <tvandall@saanichschools.ca>; Elsie McMurphy <emcmurphy@saanichschools.ca>; Dave Eberwein <deberwein@saanichschools.ca>
Cc: info@nationalcitizensinquiry.ca <info@nationalcitizensinquiry.ca>
Subject: For Board Review: Sworn Testimony on Children & Education (National Citizens Inquiry)

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School District 63 Saanich

Dear Superintendent / Dave Eberwein
Chair / Tim Dunford
Vice-Chair / Nola Silzer
Trustees / Keven Elder, Joyce Vandall, Susan Hickman, Teri Vanwell, Elsie McMurphy
Secretary Treasurer / Jason Reir

I am writing to you in your respective roles as Chair, Vice-Chair, Trustee, and/or School District Superintendent to provide information from the National Citizens Inquiry (NCI) for your awareness and review.

The NCI is an independent, citizen-led, citizen-funded, and non-partisan inquiry established to preserve sworn testimony from Canadians concerning the societal, legal, medical, and educational impacts of public policy during the COVID-19 period, as well as testimony addressing ongoing and evolving policies affecting child well-being, inclusion, and family engagement within educational settings.

The Inquiry was formed in response to concerns from parents, educators, healthcare professionals, and other citizens whose experiences—including those affecting children and youth—were not meaningfully heard or formally recorded through existing institutional or governmental processes. The sworn testimonies document lived experiences during and following the COVID-19 period, when public health measures and policy decisions significantly affected students, families, educators, and school communities, with many impacts not fully examined at the time and remaining relevant today.

A significant portion of this testimony is contained within the Inquiry's "Are Children Safe in Canada?" hearings, which address students' mental and emotional well-being, learning disruption, parental engagement, and the effects of evolving institutional policies on children and youth. Within this testimony, some witnesses raise concerns about potential unintended effects of introducing ideological frameworks into educational environments, including impacts on student well-being, community cohesion, and parental

confidence; these perspectives are not adjudicated by the Inquiry but are formally recorded and preserved for consideration alongside other evidence.

The purpose of this letter is to bring this citizen-generated public record to your attention and offer it as a resource to support listening, learning, and thoughtful reflection, and—where appropriate—to assist Superintendents and Boards in considering whether existing policies remain aligned with core educational objectives, student well-being, and public trust.

The National Citizens Inquiry has preserved sworn testimonies as part of a public archive and has produced a non-prescriptive Commissioners' Report that reviews the testimony, identifies recurring themes, and supports governance reflection and institutional learning.

In addition to the Board's review of this correspondence, I respectfully request the opportunity for a delegation from the National Citizens Inquiry to be heard at a future Board of Education meeting to provide further context, clarification, and an opportunity for Trustees to ask questions.

The proposed delegation would consist of Ted Kuntz, Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Citizens Inquiry, along with one NCI Commissioner. The delegation would provide a brief overview of the Inquiry, explain the nature and scope of its sworn testimony as it relates to education and student well-being, and respond to Trustees' questions regarding the Inquiry's mandate and public-record role.

I would be pleased to comply with any established delegation procedures, time limits, or submission requirements, and I am happy to provide advance materials should this assist the Board in its agenda-setting process.

Thank you for your service and for your commitment to students and families.

I look forward to your reply and acknowledgement of my email.

Respectfully,

Laureen Heisler

National Citizens Inquiry Ambassador

National Citizens Inquiry

Independent • Citizen-led • Citizen-funded • Non-partisan

Preserving sworn citizen testimony under oath as part of the public record

Truth Matters

Appendix: Supporting Materials for Review

The following materials are provided to support informed review and due diligence regarding the impacts of COVID-era measures and related policies on students, families, and educators within the education system. They include excerpts from the NCI Final Report, Commissioners' Reports, and direct links to sworn education-related testimonies.

Core National Citizens Inquiry Resources

- **NCI Hearings:** <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/hearings/>
- **Mini Report – Impact of Measures on the Education System (NCI Final Report):** <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/7.2.5.-Impact-of-Measures-on-the-Education-System.pdf>
- **Commissioners' Reports:** <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/commissioners-report/>
- **Become a Witness:** <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/testify/>
- **Donate:** <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/donate/>

Education & Children-Related Testimonies (2023–2025)

The following summarizes education- and children-related testimonies from the National Citizens Inquiry public record.

1. Irvin Studin

- Policy analyst
- Testified regarding large-scale educational disruption in 2020
- Characterized the interruption to schooling as unprecedented in Canada
- Discussed proportionality and long-term consequences of school closures

Testimony Link: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/witness/irvin-studin/>



2. Pierre Attallah

- Parent of school-aged children
- Described impacts of masking on classroom communication
- Spoke about vocal strain concerns among educators
- Testified regarding reduced student-teacher interaction quality

Testimony Link: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/witness/pierre-attallah/>



3. Bliss Behar

- High school student during vaccine mandate implementation

- Described emotional impact of exclusion from school activities
- Testified about leaving school following mandate enforcement
- Spoke about peer relationship strain and social backlash after speaking publicly

Testimony Link: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/witness/bliss-behar/>



4. Dr. Bahira Abdulsalam

- Testified regarding parental rights in educational settings
- Spoke about student safety and free expression concerns
- Described professional repercussions for raising dissenting views
- Discussed institutional culture and viewpoint tolerance

Testimony Link: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/witness/dr-bahira-salam/>



5. Sherri Widynowski

- Testified regarding gender-related instruction in school environments
- Raised concerns about age-appropriateness of certain educational materials
- Described perceived lack of parental notification or transparency
- Spoke about trust between families and educational institutions

Testimony Link: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/witness/sherri-widynowski/>



6. Kyra Pituley

- Grade 9 student at time of testimony
- Described social isolation during lockdown periods
- Spoke about difficulty adapting to remote learning
- Testified regarding emotional and academic disruption

Testimony Link: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/witness/kyra-pituley/>



7. Dr. Keren Epstein-Gilboa

- Expert in childhood trauma
- Testified regarding developmental considerations related to masking
- Discussed emotional regulation and attachment formation
- Spoke about social learning through facial expression in early childhood

Testimony Link: <https://rumble.com/v2oref4-dr-karn-epstein-gilboa-presents-on-the-developmental-harms-of-masks.html>



8. Cher Ellis

- Testified regarding parental consent and classroom confidentiality practices
- Described situations where parents reported limited awareness of school decisions
- Raised concerns about communication gaps between schools and families
- Spoke about institutional trust and transparency

Testimony Link: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/witness/cher-ellis/>



9. Jay McCurdy

- Veteran Teach - Grades 7–8
- Testified regarding literacy and numeracy regression following closures
- Described declines in executive functioning and classroom focus
- Raised concerns about long-term academic recovery

Testimony Link: <https://rumble.com/v2khg7o-nci-toronto-day-3-jay-mccurdy.html>



10. Kim Hunter

- Testified regarding prolonged masking of young children in classroom settings
- Described concerns about speech clarity and articulation development
- Spoke about reduced ability of students to read facial expressions / emotional cues
- Discussed potential long-term impacts on early literacy and social development

Testimony Link: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/witness/kim-hunter/>



11. Faith Groleau

- Testified regarding youth medical transition and later detransition
- Described early social affirmation within educational contexts
- Raised concerns about informed consent processes for minors
- Spoke about safeguarding vulnerable adolescents

Testimony Link: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/witness/faith-groleau/>



12. Kassandra Murray

- Elementary school teacher
- Described classroom environment during masking and mandate enforcement
- Testified regarding student engagement challenges
- Spoke about peer distancing, reduced interaction, and emotional tension

Testimony Link: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/witness/kassandra-murray/>



13. Rick MacKay

- Testified regarding adolescent mental health recovery
- Described reintegration challenges following lockdowns
- Spoke about long-term emotional and behavioral impacts
- Raised concerns regarding adequacy of ongoing support systems

Testimony Link: <https://rumble.com/v74ciw4-rick-mackay-november-08-2025-brandon-manitoba.html>



14. Malcolm Rogerson

- Testified regarding parental exclusion from school decisions
- Raised concerns about confidentiality policies
- Spoke about viewpoint diversity in school governance
- Discussed institutional transparency

Testimony Link: <https://rumble.com/v71wxuc-malcolm-rogerson-november-06-2025-brandon-manitoba.html>



15. Helen Ward

- Testified regarding family strain associated with school policies
- Described parent-child communication challenges
- Raised concerns about school-family relationship breakdown
- Spoke about trust restoration

Testimony Link: <https://rumble.com/v729mpy-helen-ward-november-06-2025-brandon-manitoba.html>



16. Charlotte Garrett

- Educator working with disabled adults
- Testified regarding institutional pressure during mandates
- Described workplace consequences linked to compliance requirements
- Discussed perceived impacts on vulnerable learners

Testimony Link: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/witness/charlotte-garrett/>



17. Alex Newman

- Testified regarding education policy and ideological frameworks
- Discussed curriculum influence and institutional autonomy
- Raised concerns regarding political or ideological integration in schools
- Spoke about long-term cultural and governance implications

Testimony Link: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/witness/alex-newman/>



18. Penny Marie Claridge

- Presented research on SOGI123 and Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- Discussed intellectual and institutional origins of curriculum frameworks
- Raised concerns about curriculum transparency
- Spoke about parental consent considerations

Testimony Link: <https://rumble.com/v6x1gfg-penny-marie-claridge-jun-21-2025-kitchener-ontario.html>



19. Dave Annis

- Testified regarding gender-identity accommodation policies
- Discussed privacy considerations in school facilities
- Raised concerns about policy clarity and communication
- Spoke about balancing student rights and safety

Testimony Link: <https://rumble.com/v74bm44-dave-annis-november-08-2025-brandon-manitoba.html>



