

NEWS RELEASE

Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation and School District 68 sign Memorandum of Agreement

Nanaimo, 29 January 2014 - Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation (NLSF) raises money to support students of Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools, and the two organizations have formalized their mutually beneficial relationship by signing an official Memorandum of Agreement.

The agreement clarifies the roles of each organization, and the commitments the organizations make to each other.

“The Board appreciates the support of the foundation and is pleased that we have an agreement that formalizes this very important relationship,” said Dot Neary, Chair of the Board of Education of School District 68 (Nanaimo Ladysmith). “Students in our district have benefitted greatly from the fundraising efforts of the schools foundation,” she said.

Dr. Patrick Ross, NLSF president, said the organization started in 1982 as the Nanaimo Schools Financial Awards Society that raised funds and presented scholarships and bursaries to graduating high school students. In 2008 the foundation legally incorporated as a not-for-profit society run by a board of community volunteers.

“As an independent, community based non-profit society we’re able to access more funding sources and provide support to deserving elementary and secondary school students in Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools,” said Ross.

“Thanks to generous donations from local individuals, service clubs and corporations, we’re able to encourage students to stay in school and succeed. We provide financial awards in the form of scholarships and bursaries to Grade 12 graduates to encourage them in their pursuit of post-secondary education. We also fund special initiatives, such as elementary music instruments, to enrich students’ programs,” he said.

Ross said that Nanaimo has one of the highest child poverty rates in BC, and NLSF works with teachers and district staff, who know which children need help.

“For the past three years, NLSF has received funding from the Breakfast Club of Canada to provide breakfast for students at eight Nanaimo schools. Monthly, more than 5,500 meals are served. Programs such as these have impact and make a real difference in the lives of students,” he said.

For more information, or to make a donation to the foundation, please visit the website: www.NLSF.ca.



Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation and School District 68 sign the Memorandum of Agreement.

Left to right, back row: **Dave Hutchinson**, Superintendent of Schools, School District 68; **Erin van Steen**, Executive Director Nanaimo Ladysmith Schools Foundation.

Front row: **Dr. Patrick Ross**, President, Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation; **Dot Neary**, Chair of the Board of Education, School District 68.

– photo by Donna Reimer

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