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June 21, 2018

Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Education

Re: Inclusion of the study of weather in the Grade 3 science curriculum

Dear Minister Fleming,

I am writing to request that the Ministry of Education include the study of weather in the Grade 3 science curriculum.

The Science Curriculum Development Team decided to place the study of weather in the grade 3 curriculum after much discussion and careful consideration. That decision was overruled by a subcommittee, which removed the study of weather without due process and against the wishes of the larger committee. The removal was also in direct opposition to the spirit of the petition signed by thousands of British Columbians asking the Ministry of Education to ensure that environmental education remain a core element of the curriculum, which you delivered to the legislature in May 2014.

As you well know, extreme weather resulting from climate change is one of the most important issues that we face as a province and as a society. Sierra Club BC strives to educate children, youth and adults about climate change and inspire individuals and communities toward solutions. We rely on science-based research and believe that an education citizenry that understands how weather works is key in tackling the massive threat that climate change poses.

Our Education Program recently wrapped up their programming for the 2017/18 school year, a year in which our environmental educators delivered 329 hands-on workshops to over 7,100 students in 25 school districts across the province. Our educators experience first-hand the need for students to have a solid understanding of weather in order to comprehend climate change and the implications it has for their future.

I urge you to direct the Ministry of Education to follow through on the wishes of the Science Curriculum Development Team and insert the study of weather into the Grade 3 science curriculum in time for the start of the 2018/19 school year.

Sincerely,

Caitlyn Vernon, Campaigns Director
Sierra Club BC

cc. Dr. Andrew Weaver, MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head