



Maritime Forces Pacific
PO Box 17000 Station Forces
Victoria, BC V9A 7N2

24 February 2022

Ms. Abby Chan
Principal
Upper Sumas Elementary
36321 Vye Rd.
Abbotsford BC V3G 1Z5

Dear Abby,

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in marking Remembrance Day and ensuring your students appreciate its history and significance to Canada. I am grateful the poster survived the flood and have displayed it in the hallway outside my office so that it can be seen and appreciated by those responsible for planning and overseeing our flood relief efforts. I am also very appreciative of the time you took to draft such a moving letter and for your kind words of support for our relief efforts during the floods that so terribly affected you and your students. This disaster and the aftermath were utterly devastating to the region. As you mentioned, I saw firsthand the impact to the local communities and it was clear that there was a long road ahead for those affected. I am so sorry to hear how quickly and badly the floods affected your school, I hope the repairs happen quickly and that you are able to move back in.

While I feel blessed by your kind words, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to show my personal appreciation for you and other educators across Canada and, more specifically, those at Upper Sumas Elementary School. As a father of four daughters, and son of two teachers, I am well apprised of the challenges the education system has faced throughout the pandemic. The efforts you and your fellow teachers made in continuing to provide education throughout two years of tribulations is nothing but inspirational. You and your colleagues at Upper Sumas faced the additional pressure of responding to a once-in-century flood, while still managing the effects of the pandemic. For this, I offer my most humble thanks for your dedication and sacrifice.

It is events like the 2021 floods that re-affirms, for many Canadian Armed Forces members, the reasons why we signed up and continue to serve our nation. Knowing our efforts make such an impact on those affected motivate us every day to be ready to help. Please pass along my gratitude to your coworkers, and thank your students for their poster.

Yours Aye,

Angus Topshee
Rear Admiral
Commander