



The Board of Education of School District No. 83

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: The Board of Education **DATE:** December 17, 2024
FROM: Corryn Grayston, Board Chair
RE: **Salmon Arm-Inashiki Twinning Committee Meeting, November 27, 2024**

Attendees

- Salmon Arm City Council
- Salmon Arm–Inashiki Twinning Committee
- Inashiki
- K̓wsaltktnéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw SD83

Highlights from Inashiki

- Mayor of Inashiki advised of financial challenges with the declining value of the Japanese Yen
- Would like to see the program reinstated for 2026
- Suggested we look at a smaller contingent of participants (possibly 5 or 10 students)
- Mayor is hoping he will be able to visit Salmon Arm in May 2025
- Mayor would also like SD83 to assist in identifying individuals to be considered for English teaching positions in Inashiki

Highlights from City of Salmon Arm

- Mayor also shared financial constraints for Salmon Arm
- Agreed that Salmon Arm supports the continuation of the program
- Appreciates the idea of a smaller group of participants
- Suggested we consider extending the timeline in between visits (e.g. 2026/2027, 2030/2031)

Highlights from K̓wsaltktnéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw SD83

- Board Chair provided explanation of revenue stream (provincial not municipal) and severe funding shortfalls over the last number of years
- Board Chair shared District's appreciation and support for the program
 - Included November 2024 Board Motion regarding inability to financially support the program
- Hoping participating students and Committee identify alternate fundraising opportunities to assist in continuation of exchange program

Next Steps

- Committee will pursue anticipated expenses for a five (5) and 10 student participant program
- Committee will consider revised itinerary options for additional cost-savings
- Committee will reconvene at City Hall on January 30, 2025, to discuss costing update and other details of consideration
- A subsequent Zoom meeting with Inashiki will be scheduled after the January 30, 2025, meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Corryn Grayston, Board Chairperson