

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Legislative Counsel](#)
Subject: Bill 57 Law amendments
Date: October 31, 2021 10:58:43 AM

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I am very encouraged by the new Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act (Bill 57). https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/64th_1st/1st_read/b057.htm.

A lot of thought and public input has gone into this important piece of legislation over the years, although it had different names. When the Sustainable Development Goals Act was proposed in October 2019 law makers heard more than 8 hours of testimony from the public, with many speakers saying we need more climate change education in the school system. I am also very encouraged by the inclusion of Netukulimk and Etuaptmumk ("two-eyed seeing").

I especially care about Goal 16(e), about education. However, I would like to see it broadened to say "to promote and support environmental education (including climate change education)..." Focusing on climate change education alone can sometimes exclude a focus on the natural world as part of our work on the climate emergency. The words "biodiversity" and "place-based education" do not appear in the Act, so I am concerned there will be little attention paid to learning about the species and ecosystems around us. Biodiversity goes hand-in-hand with actions to prevent Climate Change. Please include such wording and goals in the act.

Please keep in mind the What We Hear report about the SDGA public consultation emphasized that people who provided input wanted: "Education on climate change, ecosystems, biodiversity, and circular economy principles should be included in curriculum for all grades so that everyone graduates with a comprehensive understanding of these topics." See <https://cleanfuture.ca/> for the report.

The second change I would suggest is the implied timeline for implementing climate change education (or environmental education) through the curriculum. "Ongoing curricula renewal" could mean incorporation of climate change education into the curriculum in a way that takes many years. We don't have that long! The Department of Education (with limited partners) reviews the grade school curriculum in chunks, such as Grades P - 3, then doesn't revise that grade range again for a long time. Could "with ongoing curricula renewal" be changed to "through immediate curriculum changes at all grade levels"?

Despite these suggested changes, which I do hope you will see as beneficial to consider, I am in support of this legislation as is. We do need it.

Thank you,

Karen L.H. Robinson

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