



January 4th, 2011

### **Welcome to the New Year: A Message from the Chairperson**

On behalf of the North Vancouver Board of Education, it's my pleasure to extend these New Year's greetings and remark on some of the progress we have made recently in our School District.

The news before Christmas that our secondary school completion rate has advanced a full 4% to 87% is a strong indicator of our commitment to student success. Our rebuilding projects at Carson Graham Secondary, Ridgeway Elementary and the Education Services Centre continue on schedule.

Looking back to 2010, we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Artists for Kids, broke ground on the new Environmental Learning Centre and took part in many of the educational experiences connected to the 2010 Olympic Games. In September, after a year's preparation, we introduced Full Day Kindergarten across the School District. We also completed an intensive review of our popular French Immersion program; approved the creation of a Career Education Development Advisory Committee to provide greater opportunities for student work experience in the community.

Students, schools and the School District garnered numerous awards this year, from individual academic achievement recognition through to awards for contributions to the community, our communications and our instructional leadership. The champion performance of North Vancouver students in both academics and athletics is inspiring to witness, and we know many of our school teams are training to compete at the provincial level this spring.

Our efforts on so many fronts, from educational to community outreach, may also have assisted in attracting and retaining students to our School District and mitigating the trend of declining enrollment.

As a Board, we have worked through an intensive period of restructuring to realize a strong, stable organization that is both resilient to challenges and positioned to realize new opportunities. This year we will introduce a 10-year strategic plan that will connect our high-level goals with realizing our Vision. The Board has appreciated the collaboration of students, staff, parents, and the community to developing this plan. The work continues, and we look forward to sharing the resulting plan with the community later this spring.



On behalf of the entire Board: Holly Back, Sheila Bouman; Linda Buchanan; Barry Forward; Susan Skinner, Mary Tasi and myself, I wish you a very happy, prosperous and educational 2011.

Sincerely,

NORTH VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Franci Stratton".

Franci Stratton  
Chairperson