

events south of the border, the looming federal election in
thing that seems clear is that we should brace ourselves for unexpected challenges in the months ahead.

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connected to public education in Metro Vancouver, the mounting challenges of capacity constraints, insufficient infrastructure, and limited resources are all too familiar. These issues are pressing, and the solutions are neither simple nor abundant.

values will light the way forward, helping us navigate the road ahead and focus our priorities in these challenging times.

To ground myself, I opened our last strategic plan and read the message from then-Chair Gary Wong. The opening line struck a chord with me: *"There's something special about Burnaby Schools that draws us all here."* Later in the message, another line stood out: *"It's the passion of all who work here [and, I would add, all who learn and live here] that has created the exceptionally welcoming, inclusive, and diverse learning community for which Burnaby's h wd A*

support and empower learners, inspire staff, and strengthen connections with families and the broader community.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Together, we will make Burnaby Schools an empowered learning community where every student has the opportunity to thrive.