



MEDIA RELEASE: June 3, 2022

The Board of Education of School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin) (the “**Board**”) is announcing the following:

PROPOSED SALE OF POPLAR GLADE

The Board has been working with local entities, including The City of Williams Lake and Williams Lake First Nation, as well as with government ministries, to make the Poplar Glade site available as part of the Board’s ongoing work to support the City of Williams Lake’s growing need for housing development, and to generate revenue for the Board to fulfil its statutory mandate to provide public education programs.

The Board has followed the legal requirements that apply to disposals of school land. Those requirements include obtaining written land disposal approval from the Province, which the Board received as of December 22, 2021. The Board then issued a Request for Offers (RFO) that closed on May 13, 2022.

The Board received five offers in response to the RFO, all of which met or exceeded the base value set by the Board. The Board has conditionally accepted the offer submitted by Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN). Their offer contained no purchaser’s conditions and complied fully with the terms of the RFO. That acceptance is subject to bylaw approval in accordance with Section 65(5) of the *School Act*. The Board will consider the 3 readings of the bylaw to approve the proposed sale at a public meeting scheduled to be held on June 14 and June 28, 2022. Any written considerations or requests can be submitted to the Secretary Treasurer as per Procedural Bylaw B2702.8.e and will be taken into consideration before a final decision is made in respect of the proposed sale.

Williams Lake First Nation has demonstrated an ongoing ability to complete first class projects while supporting the continued economic and social development of their community, as well as the broader community of Williams Lake.

Upon completion of the proposed sale of Poplar Glade, the Board would increase its local capital fund to support improvements in other schools, WLFN would continue their leadership in the economic and social development of the community, and the City of Williams Lake would see this long vacant parcel of land developed as per their needs, in accordance with their bylaws.

We look forward to the continued collaboration and partnership that moves our school district and communities forward, together.

CONTACT: SD27 BOARD OF EDUCATION