

## **SD42 POLICY: 9510**

### **FLAGS OF CANADA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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#### **PHILOSOPHY**

The Board of Education ("Board") recognizes the flags of Canada and British Columbia as symbols of national and provincial identity and requires the display of one or both flags at schools. The Board also acknowledges the role of flag half-masting as a meaningful gesture to bestow honour or express a collective sense of sorrow during significant occasions.

#### **AUTHORITY**

The Board assigns the responsibility for the implementation of this policy to the Superintendent and authorizes the Superintendent to establish procedures to guide its implementation.

#### **HALF-MASTING**

Schools will fly their flags at half-mast on appropriate occasions, to bestow an honour or express a collective sense of sorrow by special instruction of the federal or provincial government, the Board, or the Superintendent of Schools. These occasions include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) National (all schools):

On the death of the Sovereign or a member of the Royal Family related in the first degree to the Sovereign (spouse, child, parent, sibling);

On the death of the Governor General, the Prime Minister, a former Governor General, a former Prime Minister;

On Remembrance Day, November 11; and

On National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, September 30.

(b) Provincial (all schools):

On the death of the Lieutenant Governor or the Premier.

(c) School District (all schools):

On the death of a current Trustee.

(d) School (when school is in session):

On the death of the Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislative Assembly for the riding in which the school is located.

Flags would normally be half-masted upon the death of a person listed above, up to and including the day of the funeral or memorial service.

**APPROVED: June 19, 2019**

**UPDATED: January 15, 2025**

#### **References:**

School Act, sections 5 and 175; B.C. Reg. 265/89 School Regulation

Province of BC Flag Protocol: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/office-of-the-premier/intergovernmental-relations-secretariat/protocol/flags>