



# Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

Fax: 604-713-5412

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To: All School Principals

**Please Communicate this information with your school.**

Following a natural gas pipeline break near Prince George on October 9, 2018, natural gas supply to the lower mainland is disrupted. During and after the repair process (estimated mid-November), supplies will be limited. This supply limit has real consequences to BC communities. Some industries have reduced operations or have substituted more expensive alternatives. As the weather turns colder, the impacts of the shortfall will increase.

FortisBC is asking that customers take voluntary measures to conserve natural gas usage – including the VSB. We use natural gas to heat most of our schools and buildings, therefore the VSB community can play a significant part in conserving natural gas during this shortfall. I encourage our school communities to increase their efforts to reduce energy consumption until the ruptured pipeline resumes full service. Natural gas is a resource we should always use wisely, especially during a shortage.

To support this conservation effort, VSB Operations will aim to keep room temperatures set to 20-21° C from 8:30am – 3:00pm in elementary schools and 8:00am – 3:00pm in secondary schools. Specialty programs (e.g. childcare spaces or parent conferences) will be supported outside of these times. I am optimistic that we can implement these measures with minimal inconvenience to school operations. We want warm, comfortable schools for the core educational hours.

I encourage all our staff to view the current situation as an opportunity to improve the efficiency of our operations, and as a learning opportunity about the importance of using our valuable resources wisely. As a District, we can lead by example, and demonstrate the power of the combined actions in each of our hundreds of classrooms and schools. We can also help take that message to the thousands of homes within our community.

To assist staff, we have provided fact sheets outlining tips for reducing natural gas use – both in the school and at home.

Our hope is that in a few weeks, the pipeline repair will be complete and gas supplies will be more plentiful. Until that time, we encourage everyone to contribute as best they can.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'S. Hoffman'.

Suzanne Hoffman  
Superintendent of Schools



# Saving Natural Gas *at Home*

## *Why do we need to save Natural Gas at home?*

On October 9, 2018, a natural gas pipeline burst near Prince George, BC. Until the line can be fixed, **natural gas supply to the whole province is limited.**

Everyone in BC has been asked to cut back on using natural gas, even at home, until the repair is complete. Some companies have even shut down temporarily, meaning many people have been laid off.

**Many Vancouver homes use natural gas to heat and power their homes.** Let's do our part to share BC's limited natural gas supply!

## *How can I help?*



**Turn down the heat.** Keep your thermostat set below or at 20°C whenever possible.



**Dress warmly.** Stay cozy at home with sweaters, socks, long pants, and blankets.



**Heat only the rooms you're in.** It's a waste of gas to heat rooms and spaces that aren't being used. Close registers and turn off baseboard heaters in empty rooms and storage spaces.



**Take shorter showers.** Natural gas heats our hot water. Limit showers to 5 minutes whenever possible.



**Maximize your dishwasher.** Natural gas heats our hot water. Only run the dishwasher when it's a full load, and try the energy-saving mode for less dirty dishes.



**Maximize your laundry.** Natural gas heats our hot water. Use cold water to wash laundry, and always wash full loads. If you have a natural gas dryer, use low heat settings, like "permanent press," or better yet, hang clothes to dry when possible.

## *Why do we need to save Natural Gas?*

On October 9, 2018, a natural gas pipeline burst near Prince George, BC. Until the line can be fixed, **natural gas supply to the whole province is limited.**

Everyone in BC has been asked to cut back on using natural gas until the repair is complete. Some companies have even shut down temporarily, meaning many people have been laid off.

**The VSB uses natural gas to heat our schools and offices, so we need to reduce our use.**

Let's do our part to share BC's limited natural gas supply!

## *How can I help?*



**Turn down the heat.** If your classroom has an adjustable thermostat, please keep it set to 20°C whenever possible.



**Dress warmly.** Since the heat will be lowered at school, make sure to dress for the weather. Make it fun by having “sweater” or “toque” days at your school!



**Keep the heat in - close the doors.** During lunch and recess, please don't prop any doors open. It wastes heat (and gas!).



**Keep the heat in - close the windows.** Fresh air is nice, but cold air takes a lot of gas to heat up. Whenever possible, keep windows closed during class, and always closed in an empty room.