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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

School District 43 Board of Education calls on the BC government and BCTF to Put Students First!

[COQUITLAM, BC – AUGUST 7, 2014] — The Coquitlam Board of Education (SD43) is calling on the BC government and the BC Teachers' Federation to **Put Students First!** as teacher collective bargaining talks resume between the two parties tomorrow in Vancouver.

Our local trustees are very concerned that any delay to the scheduled September 2nd start to school will be harmful to student learning. In response to these concerns and the recent extended break in bargaining, the school district has launched an advocacy campaign they are calling "SD43 Puts Students First!". The campaign starts now and runs through the start of school.

SD43 Chair Melissa Hyndes said "the SD43 Board of Education has heard concerns from the community throughout the summer. This strike is bad for students and staff. Everyone wants to get back to school on September 2nd! We are asking the community to stand with us as we raise our voice of concern."

Hyndes added that "the goal of the campaign is to stay closely connected with community. We hope to keep everyone informed and to keep attention on this to keep it moving. We are calling on community to join us in our efforts. In addition to media coverage, we will be meeting with local elected officials and will launch an exciting social media and email advocacy initiative next week. We want everyone to stay tuned and visit our website regularly (www.sd43.bc.ca)".

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For more information or to arrange an interview with Chair Melissa Hyndes, please call:

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