

### The Hon. Mike Bernier Minister of Education



As a father of five, I have seen the positive impact sports and teamwork has on children. Lifelong friendships are born in sports and the lessons learned from teammates and coaches are invaluable for life. Each year, young athletes pour in their time and energy to challenge themselves as well as their teammates on sports fields, in courts, as well as gymnasiums across B.C. Thank you to the coaches, parents and volunteers for supporting our students along the way.

While recognizing that each school and its community have unique needs, sports promote sportsmanship and good citizenship across B.C. BC School Sports encourages students to participate in extracurricular activities and helps schools organize various games for our students. These tournaments bring together some of the best and brightest students in the province. At the highest level, the provincial championships give future athletes the opportunity to meet and compete with some of the best in their age group and learn from each other. It is a rewarding experience, not only for those aspiring to become professional athletes, but for all participants as they honour the spirit of sportsmanship. B.C.'s schools are home to athletes that will play sports at the highest levels in universities, the Olympics/ Paralympics, and various professional leagues.

An active, healthy lifestyle is fundamental to success in classrooms, then into post-secondary schools and the workforce. The student athletes in the Provincial Championship games exemplify the amazing potential of what our students can accomplish through hard work and commitment. As I look around B.C., I am always impressed by the accomplishments of athletes we have here. Best of luck to students and coaches participating in the games.