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British Columbia School Districts
Superintendents, Board Chairs, Teacher Federation Presidents, Parents Advisor Committees,
(sent via email)

Regarding: How the Population Signatures are created

To whom it may concern,

Recently I wrote to you to show how the census results can provide information relevant to opening and closing of public and private facilities, including schools.

Thank you to those who complimented, and asked for clarification. An explanation of how the Population Signatures are created, along with charts highlighting the changes in Population Signatures between 1996 to 2001 and 2001 to 2006 can be found via:

<http://www.wminfomatics.com/WMAalytics/Articles/120108/PopSigSD.html>

My population and enrolment analysis and forecast added information relevant to the public consultation process underway in the Qualicum School District. At public presentations, I showed historical enrolment numbers, thereby highlighting the fluctuating age distribution, sometimes referred to as “boom, bust, and echo”.

The peak of the echo has recently moved out of secondary schools followed by another bust, with the lowest numbers now moving thru the middle school grades. As the early echo has aged into family formation, another echo is now entering elementary schools.

This addition of population and enrolment information helped justify the reconsideration of the consultant’s recommendation to close the high school. Subsequently, the importance of fluctuating enrolment when considering school openings and closures was raised in the Legislature.

For more information about population and enrolment estimation, projections, and forecasts, visit the website above or feel free to contact me.

Yours truly,



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