


REGIONAL SCHOOLS COORDINATING COMMITTEE BRITISH COLUMBIA



July 6, 2019

Dear friends in the region,

The Regional Schools Committee is most pleased with the plans that each of the Schools Coordinating Teams have made in order to make the schools an important part of the region's teaching plans and the activities of the believers. Participation in the summer schools can be seen as an opportunity to call to mind the lives of the dawn-breakers. "Their qualities of fearlessness, consecration, and detachment from all else save God impress themselves upon everyone who learns of their ventures."¹ In these last weeks leading up to the second bicentenary, we are seizing an opportunity "to reach out to the widest possible cross-section of society and to those with whom they share a connection"² Within the environment of the summer school, the presenters and workshop facilitators will help us reflect on what these next few weeks leading up to the celebrations will require of us, and kindle within each of the friends a spirit of faithful endeavour to make realistic yet audacious teaching plans.

Although the Fraser Valley School is full and has a lengthy waiting list, the schools in the Interior and on the Island are still open for registration. See www.bahaischools.org.

Thompson-Nicola Summer School, July 10 – 14, 2019
Dutch Lake Community Centre, 209 Dutch Lake Road, Clearwater

Vancouver Island Summer School, August 21 – 25, 2019
Camp Barnard, Sooke

Please direct any questions about the schools or registration to thompsonbs.bc@gmail.com or vancouverislandbahaischool@gmail.com

We are pleased to share some of the guidance that has propelled the planning made by the Regional Schools Committee and the Schools Coordinating Teams:

"The Bahá'ís must realize that they belong to a world-wide Order... They must try and introduce the Bahá'í atmosphere of life and thought into their Summer Schools, rather than making the Summer School an episode and a pleasant vacation period, during which they learn a little more about the Faith."

(From letters written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, compilation Centers of Bahá'í Learning, which contains additional guidance)

"National winter and summer schools, as well as deepening classes at the local level, are an integral aspect of community life in which the friends come together to deepen their knowledge of the Faith. Institutes were created as an instrument to develop the

¹ Ridván 2018

² Universal House of Justice, 2016, 05, 18

human resources necessary for the expansion and consolidation of the Faith. These two elements are complementary, and benefit from each other as they both flourish."

(Turning Point, Global Plans: Fundamental Concepts "Learning to Develop Human Resources for Expansion and Consolidation", paragraph 40)

"We pray that summer schools may become increasingly effective in educating the friends so that they in turn may become useful channels for the diffusion of the Divine fragrances."

(From a letter of the Universal House of Justice to all National Spiritual Assemblies of Europe, September 26, 1969)

"... The institution of the Summer School constitutes a vital and inseparable part of any teaching campaign, and as such ought to be given the full importance it deserves in the teaching plans and activities of the believers. It should be organized in such a way as to attract the attention of the non-believers to the Cause and thus become an effective medium for teaching. Also it should afford the believers themselves an opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the teachings, through lectures and discussions and by means of close and intense community life."

(From letter written on behalf of the Guardian to the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles, October 17, 1936: Centers of Bahá'í Learning, pp. 2-3)

Loving Bahá'í greetings,
Connie Waterman, secretary

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