Public Schools Branch
Stratford Office • PO Box 8600 • Charlottetown PE C1A 8V7 • 902-368-6990 (T) • 902-368-6960 (F)
Summerside Office • 250 Water Street, Suite 201 • Summerside PE C1N 1B6 • 902-888-8400 (T) • 902-888-8449 (F)

To: Glen Stewart Primary School Parents via email
From: Tracy Beaulieu, Director PEI PSB

Dear Glen Stewart Primary parents/guardians,

We want to thank members of the Glen Stewart community for your open letter with important questions about the criminal conviction of former substitute teacher, Matthew Craswell.

We, like many of you, are deeply upset by this situation. Your concerns are understandable and valid. The Public Schools Branch and the staff at Glen Stewart learned about the perpetrator's motivations alongside the public through the April 29th court proceedings.

We understand that you have questions. We are responding to every message we get by email and will continue to be as transparent as we can.

On a public meeting:
The open letter requested a public meeting. The PEI government recently announced a formal review led by former Chief Justice David Jenkins. We are open to any review that will identify resource or structural gaps in our system so we can best serve students and this province. We welcome the opportunity to work with experts and will participate fully in this process. We also do not want to interfere with this process by organizing ad hoc meetings outside of its scope, so we will wait until we understand what that review will entail before considering organizing any public meetings.

On transparency:
We will continue to offer as much transparency as possible balanced with our legal and ethical obligations for the privacy of our students and their families.

This situation has highlighted process deficiencies, which we are actively working to address. We have introduced a more robust process and tracking system for complaints of misconduct. We are offering more comprehensive training for all staff on recognizing and reporting predatory behaviour, and improved workplace investigations. We are also advocating for an expansion of RCMP background checks and vulnerable sector checks. With what we know now, Matthew Craswell never should have been allowed in the school system.

By being transparent about this situation and what needs to be improved, we hope that other organizations working with children can also strengthen their systems in the interest of broader community safety.

On the incident at Glen Stewart Primary School:
While being respectful of privacy and legal obligations, we can share the following. In August 2024, when we learned there were charges of child pornography laid against a substitute teacher, we proactively reached out to schools where the accused - now convicted - had taught. We know of one