

# Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary

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Principal: Dennis Dickson, M.Ed Vice Principal: Ken Elphick, M.Ed Vice Principal: Michelle Allen, M.Ed



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Dear SRT football community,

I am writing to let you know that Samuel Robertson Technical has made the difficult decision to discontinue its football program.

The sustainability of the Titans football program has proven challenging through the years given that SRT is a smaller-sized school that doesn't have teacher-coaches on staff or a large student population from which to draw players.

In recent years, the dedication of community volunteers Rick Pelwecki, Mike and Al Jones, Ricky Hebert and Mark Bailey has kept the program running. For the past two seasons, the program has struggled with numbers, and this year we were unable to field teams at the Grade 8 or junior level.

SRT draws students from a relatively small catchment area, which limits not only the number of students, but also the number of potential football players, since student-athlete eligibility requirements unfortunately prevent out-of-catchment students from suiting up.

In addition to these challenges, BC High School Football passed a resolution two years ago preventing players from playing community and high school football during the same season.

The combined effect of these rules has made it very difficult in the past few years for the school to find enough players to form teams. SRT has fielded a senior team three times in its history and two of those seasons ended in forfeitures due to lack of player availability as a result of injury and illness.

Travel posed another challenge for our program. Unlike many sports where teams can play other local high schools, the number of local teams is limited. In the 2018 season, SRT was the only local school to field a senior varsity team, so "league games" were in Chilliwack, Abbotsford or Surrey and playoff games as far away as Prince George or Nanaimo. Most of these costs get downloaded to the players, making football the most expensive school sport to play.

Unfortunately, these obstacles are not going to change anytime soon. Discontinuing the program was an extremely hard decision, but we have made this decision knowing that there are many opportunities for our students to play football in the community.

SRT would like to congratulate the players who have represented the Titans over the years, and thank all of the coaches who have volunteered their time to work with these students.

Sincerely,

Dennis Dickson  
Principal