



February 9, 2012

Ref: 151646

Franci Stratton, Chair
Board of Education, and Co-signers
School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)
Email: fstratton@nvsd44.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Stratton and Co-signers:

Thank you for the joint letter dated January 6, 2012, regarding seismic upgrades for Argyle Secondary and Seymour Heights Elementary in School District No. 44 (North Vancouver).

Staff in the Ministry of Education's Capital Management Branch have advised me that these projects are ranked as high priority by the North Vancouver School District in its capital plan. As you note in your letter, seismic mitigation is a challenging part of the provincial Capital Management Plan.

With respect to your request for provincial resources to develop and support emergency management and coordination throughout all schools, Emergency Management BC, as part of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's, has jurisdiction in this regard. The Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) provides information to students, parents and teachers on emergency preparedness. Further information is available at: www.pep.bc.ca/schools/schools.html. The Province provides school districts with guidance on emergency preparedness; however, boards of education are responsible for establishing school guidelines and policies, and the provision of emergency kits and practice drills within their local schools.

I recognize the importance of these school capital projects to the North Vancouver region. Please be assured that the Province's School Seismic Mitigation Program continues to move forward and the Ministry is consulting with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC in this regard.

Again, thank you for your correspondence in support of North Vancouver students and staff.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "George Abbott". The signature is fluid and cursive.

George Abbott
Minister