

June 28, 2013

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender,

Re: Annual Precipitation and Covered Play Areas

On behalf of the North Vancouver School District, the North Vancouver Board of Education, the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council, the North Vancouver Administrators Association, the North Vancouver Teachers' Association and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 389, we are writing to request the use of the *BC Building Code (2012)* as the *approved official source of data* to determine the eligibility of Covered Play Areas as identified within the Ministry of Education Area Standards.

The Ministry of Education - Area Standards (05/2012) currently state:

A covered play area not exceeding 100 m² (total roof area) may be added to an elementary school that meets the following criteria:

- *A school will be eligible if it has a nominal capacity less than 175.*
- *All elementary schools in a district will be eligible if the district has one of the following conditions:*

- *Annual precipitation exceeding 2000 mm*
- *More than 5000 degree days below 18 C per annum*
- *Exceptional local conditions, which create problems best solved by a covered play area.*

The climatic data shall be derived from an approved official source such as the supplement to the National Building Code.

We appreciate the inclusion of funding for covered play areas within the construction of new elementary schools. These provide an option for students for outdoor play during periods of inclement weather and are important building features to include in the building of schools. Many of the elementary schools built in the North Vancouver School District during the 1950s and 1960s incorporated covered areas for outdoor activities and have been considered a 'standard' building component by many in our community.

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We request that the data referenced in the BC Building Code (2012) be used as the official source for climatic data to determine *annual precipitation levels exceeding 2000 mm*. Attached Table C-2 of the BC Building Code (2012) reports the annual total precipitation for North Vancouver as 2100 mm. Based on this recent data, with annual precipitation rates now exceeding 2000 mm in North Vancouver, all new and replacement elementary schools in North Vancouver will meet the required annual precipitation conditions and qualify for funding of covered play areas of 100 square meters.

We appreciate that there are many demands placed upon the available funding sources to support capital projects on a priority basis. We also understand that criteria within the Area Standards are intended to help ensure that capital funding is carefully allocated and managed for the benefit of all students and districts in British Columbia.

The use of the annual precipitation totals recorded in the BC Building Code (2012) to determine the eligibility for Covered Play Areas as identified within the Ministry of Education Area Standards will help support our mutual commitment towards the construction of quality capital projects for the benefit of our students.

Sincerely,

NORTH VANCOUVER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Handwritten signature of John Lewis in black ink.

John Lewis
Superintendent of Schools

NORTH VANCOUVER BOARD
OF EDUCATION

Handwritten signature of Franci Stratton in black ink.

Franci Stratton
Chairperson

NORTH VANCOUVER
PARENT ADVISORY
COUNCIL

Handwritten signature of David Whitehead in black ink.

David Whitehead
Chair

NORTH VANCOUVER
ADMINISTRATORS'
ASSOCIATION

Handwritten signature of Bill Reid in black ink.

Bill Reid
Co-Chair

NORTH VANCOUVER
ADMINISTRATORS'
ASSOCIATION

Handwritten signature of Mark James in black ink.

Mark James
Co-Chair

CANADIAN UNION OF
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 389

Handwritten signature of Cindy McQueen in black ink.

Cindy McQueen
President

NORTH VANCOUVER
TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION

Handwritten signature of Daniel Storms in black ink.

Daniel Storms
President

cc. Joel Palmer, Ministry of Education, Capital Branch
Jane Thornthwaite, MLA, North Vancouver—Seymour
Naomi Yamamoto, MLA, North Vancouver—Lonsdale
Ralph Sultan, MLA, West Vancouver—Capilano

Table C-2
Design Data for Selected Locations in Canada
 Forming part of Appendix C

Location	Elev., m	Design Temperature				Degree- Days Below 18°C	15 Min. Rain, mm	One Day Rain, 1/50, mm	Ann. Rain, mm	Moist. Index	Ann. Tot. Ppn., mm	Driving Rain Wind Pressure, Pa, 1/5	Snow Load, kPa, 1/50		Hourly Wind Pressures, kPa		Seismic Data ⁽¹⁾					
		January		July 2.5%									S _s	S _t	1/10	1/50	S _s (0.2)	S _s (0.5)	S _s (1.0)	S _s (2.0)	PGA	
		2.5% °C	1% °C	Dry °C	Wet °C																	
Stewart	10	-17	-20	25	16	4350	13	135	1300	1.47	1900	180	7.9	0.8	0.28	0.36	0.30	0.19	0.11	0.063	0.15	
Tahsis	25	-4	-6	26	18	3150	13	200	3845	3.91	3900	300	1.1	0.4	0.26	0.34	0.87	0.69	0.36	0.16	0.38	
Taylor	515	-35	-37	26	18	5720	15	72	320	0.49	450	100	2.3	0.1	0.31	0.40	0.095	0.060	0.031	0.018	0.053	
Terrace	60	-19	-21	27	17	4150	13	120	950	1.08	1150	200	5.4	0.6	0.28	0.36	0.34	0.21	0.11	0.065	0.16	
Tofino	10	-2	-4	20	16	3150	13	193	3275	3.36	3300	300	1.1	0.4	0.53	0.68	1.2	0.94	0.48	0.21	0.52	
Trail	440	-14	-17	33	20	3600	10	54	580	0.65	700	60	4.1	0.1	0.27	0.35	0.27	0.16	0.081	0.045	0.14	
Ucluelet	5	-2	-4	18	16	3120	13	180	3175	3.26	3200	280	1.0	0.4	0.53	0.68	1.2	0.94	0.48	0.21	0.53	
Vancouver Region																						
Burnaby (Simon Fraser Univ.)	330	-7	-9	25	17	3100	10	150	1850	1.93	1950	160	2.9	0.7	0.36	0.47	0.93	0.63	0.32	0.17	0.46	
Cloverdale	10	-8	-10	29	20	2700	10	112	1350	1.44	1400	160	2.5	0.2	0.34	0.44	1.1	0.72	0.33	0.17	0.54	
Haney	10	-9	-11	30	20	2840	10	134	1800	1.86	1950	160	2.4	0.2	0.34	0.44	0.97	0.65	0.32	0.17	0.48	
Ladner	3	-6	-8	27	19	2600	10	80	1000	1.14	1050	160	1.3	0.2	0.36	0.46	1.1	0.73	0.35	0.18	0.54	
Langley	15	-8	-10	29	20	2700	10	112	1450	1.53	1500	160	2.4	0.2	0.34	0.44	1.1	0.71	0.33	0.17	0.53	
New Westminster	10	-8	-10	29	19	2800	10	134	1500	1.59	1575	160	2.3	0.2	0.34	0.44	0.99	0.66	0.33	0.17	0.49	
North Vancouver	135	-7	-9	26	19	2910	12	150	2000	2.07	2100	160	3.0	0.3	0.35	0.45	0.88	0.61	0.33	0.17	0.44	
Richmond	5	-7	-9	27	19	2800	10	86	1070	1.20	1100	160	1.5	0.2	0.35	0.45	1.0	0.68	0.34	0.18	0.50	
Surrey (88 Ave & 156 St.)	90	-8	-10	29	20	2750	10	128	1500	1.58	1575	160	2.4	0.3	0.34	0.44	1.0	0.69	0.33	0.17	0.52	
Vancouver (City Hall)	40	-7	-9	28	20	2825	10	112	1325	1.44	1400	160	1.8	0.2	0.35	0.45	0.94	0.64	0.33	0.17	0.46	
Vancouver (Granville & 41 Ave)	120	-6	-8	28	20	2925	10	107	1325	1.44	1400	160	1.9	0.3	0.35	0.45	0.95	0.65	0.34	0.17	0.47	
West Vancouver	45	-7	-9	28	19	2950	12	150	1600	1.69	1700	160	2.4	0.2	0.37	0.48	0.88	0.62	0.33	0.17	0.43	
Vernon	405	-20	-23	33	20	3600	13	43	350	0.41	400	80	2.2	0.1	0.31	0.40	0.27	0.17	0.083	0.047	0.14	