

The Honourable Don McRae
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

RE: Argyle Secondary School Capital Project

Dear Minister McRae:

On behalf of the Board of Education and the Presidents' Council representatives of our partner groups, I write to express our most sincere appreciation of the Ministry of Education's support of the capital funding to address the high seismic risks and necessary structural upgrades at Argyle Secondary School. We appreciate the importance of providing our students and staff with a safe facility in which to work and to learn.

Our Facilities and Planning Department is proceeding with the Seismic Project Identification Report process in full cooperation with the Ministry and the professional staff associated with this project. Once the SPIR is complete, we will continue with the project definition phase.

To keep our partner groups and community informed we have presented updates at meetings and have engaged in discussions related to: the focus of the project, the steps in the project's development, and the associated timelines towards project completion. The feedback that we have received to date indicates a strong interest in pursuing a complete replacement to Argyle Secondary School, as the preferred approach to address the high seismic risks, rather than a seismic upgrade.

Built in 1960, Argyle Secondary School is now more than 50 years old, with many of the building systems having outlived their intended life span. Heating, ventilation, electrical and mechanical systems are all in need of replacement. These systems are inefficient in their use of energy, resulting in increased costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

A new school would be built to a higher seismic standard, would include much-needed functional improvements within this outdated facility, and would achieve long-term financial and environmental benefits related to life-cycle costing over the next forty years.

Previous life cycle cost studies suggest that a replacement project would be a far better investment in the future of Argyle Secondary School than a seismic upgrade.

Another significant benefit of a full replacement school is that construction can proceed without the disruption to the learning environment that would occur during the two years of a seismic construction project. Our prior feasibility report identifies the ability to build a replacement school on the adjacent field, without disruption to the learning environment, or requiring the use of temporary accommodation in portables.

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The Board of Education and partner groups would welcome the opportunity to discuss the possibility of exploring a full replacement project for Argyle Secondary School, at the earliest opportunity.

We would be pleased to meet with the Ministry, or Capital Management Branch staff, to discuss how a replacement of Argyle Secondary School may be achieved in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Franci Stratton'.

Franci Stratton
Board Chair, North Vancouver Board of Education

NORTH VANCOUVER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Lewis'.

John Lewis
Superintendent of Schools

NORTH VANCOUVER
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Storms'.

Daniel Storms
President

NORTH VANCOUVER
PARENT ADVISORY
COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Whitehead'.

David Whitehead
NVPAC Chair

NORTH VANCOUVER
ADMINISTRATORS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark James'.

Mark James
Co-Chair

NORTH VANCOUVER
ADMINISTRATORS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Reid'.

Bill Reid
Co-Chair

CANADIAN UNION OF
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
(LOCAL 389)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cindy McQueen'.

Cindy McQueen
President

cc: Jane Thornthwaite, Parliamentary Secretary for Student Support
and Parent Engagement
Ralph Sultan, Minister of State for Seniors
Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Small Business
Keith Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division
Doug Stewart, Director, Capital Management Branch
Kathleen Kane, Planning Officer, Capital Management Branch
District of North Vancouver Mayor and Council