



The Best Place on Earth

Ref: 134555

JAN 20 2010

Susan Skinner, Chair, and co-signers  
c/o Board of Education  
School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)  
721 Chesterfield Ave  
North Vancouver BC V7M 2M5

Dear Ms. Skinner and co-signers:

Thank you for your letter dated September 21, 2009, regarding the 2009/10 Annual Facility Grant (AFG).

As I am sure you are aware, our province has been impacted by the global economic downturn and consequently we are facing some very difficult challenges. Despite this downturn, public education continues to be a priority of government and in fact education funding is increasing by \$84 million this school year.

In order to support priority areas like health care and education, every sector is being asked to do its part. As part of government's spending review, the Province identified that many school districts have unspent facility grant dollars from past years. At the end of March 2009, unspent annual facility grant dollars across all 60 school districts totaled more than \$98 million. For this year, we have asked school districts to use that money for their school maintenance projects so that the dollars government flows can go directly into the classroom.

This being said, the Ministry of Education is working closely with the school districts to address maintenance issues needed to ensure the health and safety of our students. I have noted your request for a dialogue with the Ministry with respect to facilities in North Vancouver and encourage district staff to contact the Ministry's Capital Management Branch staff to discuss capital maintenance requirements in your District.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Margaret MacDiarmid  
Minister