

January 6, 2012

The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Abbott:

Subject: Provincial Seismic Mitigation Program and Emergency Management Resources

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 encourage a renewed commitment to the Provincial Seismic Mitigation program for schools.

As a key component of revitalized infrastructure, seismic safety continues to be a priority concern for many of our schools. Proposals submitted by the School District for Argyle Secondary and Seymour Heights Elementary underscore the need to address both these priority schools for replacement. Both buildings are in poor physical condition and are rated as high seismic risk.

We appreciate that addressing the many substandard seismic schools in British Columbia is a challenging part of the provincial Capital Management Plan. However, recognizing that seismic safety is a central component of the government's revitalization of school infrastructure, we are concerned about the future of the Mitigation Program, beyond the projects currently underway or slated for seismic upgrades.

To address our ongoing concerns for emergency management and preparedness for a serious seismic event, we have secured the services of an emergency management coordinator on a contract basis. Through these services, we are providing emergency management support to our schools and advisory services to district staff.

While dedicating resources to bring about physical improvements to existing facilities, we also encourage the Ministry to consider the allocation of resources at a provincial level to support emergency management and coordination throughout all schools.

In the coming months, we hope to hear more about the government's plans for future projects within the Provincial Seismic Mitigation Program and progress on our proposals for the reconstruction of Argyle Secondary and Seymour Heights Elementary Schools.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

.../2



The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Education
January 6, 2012
Page 2

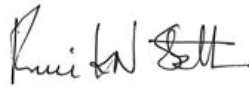
Sincerely,

NORTH VANCOUVER
SCHOOL DISTRICT



John Lewis
Superintendent of Schools

NORTH VANCOUVER
BOARD OF EDUCATION



Franci Stratton
Chairperson

NORTH VANCOUVER
PARENT ADVISORY
COUNCIL



David Whitehead
Chair

NORTH VANCOUVER
ADMINISTRATORS'
ASSOCIATION



Elizabeth Bell
Co-Chair

NORTH VANCOUVER
ADMINISTRATORS'
ASSOCIATION



Bill Reid
Co-Chair

CANADIAN UNION OF
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 389



Cindy McQueen
President

NORTH VANCOUVER
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



Daniel Storms
President

PC/ps

