

June 1, 2022

The Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia
PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E1
premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Horgan,

On behalf of the Board of Education, I am writing to express our frustration that Project #127813 Ecole Mission Senior Secondary seismic replacement has been deferred indefinitely, and that we must resubmit this project alongside our other 5-year capital priorities. ([page2 Capital Plan Bylaw](#))

On October 13, 2020, the NDP government made an election promise to replace Mission Senior Secondary School, which was built in the early 1950s. There was no mention of a seismic upgrade or retrofit, but a promise for a full replacement. NDP MLA Candidate Pam Alexis said at the time, "A John Horgan government will put the needs of Mission students, their families, and our community first. We need a new school that provides quality learning environment and helps deliver the best education possible for our students."

After the NDP were elected, we were advised that we had to submit the business case for a seismic upgrade, retrofit or full replacement. The cost of creating this business plan to date is \$193,789.57 and is to be reimbursed by the province once the project has been approved. We received notification that the project has been dropped from our capital plan with a note that it is now delayed. The board is now burdened with carrying the cost of the business plan for an undetermined number of years. This is money that will not be available for other local capital projects and maintenance.

Our district is experiencing extremely rapid growth and anticipate the need for 4 new elementary schools within the next ten to twenty years. We estimate the cost of creating 4 new business plans for these schools to be in the range of one million dollars. We do not have the local capital funds to proceed with creating the business plans, and then carrying these costs potentially for years.

While we understand that there are significant capital cost pressures for the province, our community was promised a replacement school during the 2020 Provincial election by the NDP party. It is now 2022 and we are further behind on this project than we were two years ago. Your government made a promise to the community of Mission, and we are asking you to keep that promise and move the Ecole Mission Senior Secondary School replacement to the top of the list for Major Capital projects.

Sincerely,



Tracy Loffler

On behalf of the Board of Education

CC:

Minister Jennifer Whiteside
MLA Pam Alexis
MLA Bob D'eith
Treasury Board
Mission City Mayor and Council
BCSTA

Trustees: R. Cairns, S. Carter, J. Renkema, R. McKamey
Mission DPAC
MTU
Mission CUPE
Mission PVPA