

January 4, 2023

Emailed: premier@gov.bc.ca

Honourable David Eby
Premier of British Columbia
PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Eby,

The Mission Board of Education (School District 75) congratulates you on becoming the Premier of British Columbia. We know this position holds many responsibilities and complex challenges, and that you are working hard at addressing many of them. We look forward to working collaboratively with you on the great things that your government will do moving forward.

The replacement of the École Mission Secondary School is one of those great things. The replacement of the school is a need that this community has been advocating for over the past five years. This project was previously approved, and cancelled last year, creating significant concern for this community. As such, the Mission Board of Education, requests that you, Premier Eby, reaffirm your Government's \$87 million commitment made to the Mission community during the [BC NDP 2020 election campaign](#). The commitment to advocate for the replacement of École Mission Secondary School (MSS) is ongoing - by students, parents, staff, and the Board of Education.

We were informed earlier this year, that the seismic upgrade/full replacement of École Mission Secondary School has been deferred indefinitely. This goes against the Election promise made to Mission. MLA Pam Alexis stated "the government will put the needs of Mission students, their families and our community first. We need a new school that provides a quality learning environment and helps deliver the best education possible for our students."

MLA Bob D'Eith in the Oct. 13, 2020, article touted the NDP's record on building and upgrading over 100 provincial schools. This is the governments same message currently when asked about our new replacement. MLA D'Eith also stated, "This is the only school serving students in grades 10 to 12, and with our community growing, the demands are going to increase. Building a new school gives us a solid place to grow from and will allow us to accommodate more students with greater community activity."

The 2020 news release also advised the new school would have the latest energy-efficient technology to reduce emissions under the NDP's CleanBC plan to address climate change. The imposed deferral is delaying the reduction of emissions to the detriment of School District finances and negatively impacting the planet.

We acknowledge that there is \$3 billion promised for the Recovery Investment Fund. Our Board of Education would like to know what happened to the money earmarked for this project from that fund, as was promised in the announcement? Will we see the funding come from this fund for the high school replacement project? When will the funding be confirmed? If funding from the Recovery Investment Fund is no longer available as the government indicated in Oct. 2020, will the government proceed with the high school replacement project with the funding from the \$5 billion surplus the government noted in August 2022? In addition, the school district made investments into planning for the school's replacement. Is the Minister of Education going to use the consultant's report that was submitted, and reimburse the School District those costs on approval?

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The Mission Board of Education considers the current government's not fulfilling commitments made and the approach of deferring and delaying the replacement of critical infrastructure as short-sighted, continuing to neglect the health and usability of BC schools. The Board of Education respectfully requests that the full replacement of the École Mission Secondary School be placed back on the priority list of capital projects in the spring of 2023. We have a responsibility for ensuring the students and the community have suitable and safe educational facilities. The students deserve to have a safe and suitable new facility to learn, create, and expand their educational dreams of becoming the whole, globally aware, young adults that will come into our community and surrounding communities to be the best in the workforce.

École Mission Secondary School is the ONLY secondary school in Mission, and it is over capacity. This one senior secondary model was determined with many parent and student forums to have a change, so that the students could have more options, such as Physics, Calculus, Trades etc., the types of courses which are important to be successful post high school. Mission community has seen an unprecedented growth due to families being forced to move further east from the Vancouver area due to housing costs and affordability. Because of this shift, many of our elementary schools are over or nearing capacity, and our enrolment has been surpassing the projections in an unprecedented way, feeding more students into École Mission Secondary than we have seen in the past.

For reference we have attached the previous correspondence regarding MSS. Some of the responses lack a clear response to the questions asked.

- **Letter to Minister Whiteside June 1, 2022:** [Pro-active school approval.pdf](#)
- **Letter to Premier Horgan June 1, 2022:** [MSS Deferral.pdf](#)
- **Letter from Minister Whiteside July 12, 2022:** [Ministry Correspondence - Response.pdf](#)
- **Letter from Minister Whiteside:** [Response from Minister Whiteside](#)

We respectfully request that you, Premier Eby, and your government, support the immediate replacement of École Mission Secondary School with "shovels in the ground". We certainly appreciate MLAs Alexis and D'Eith for their advocacy for the new secondary school. They both have been accommodating with the School Board, to answer any questions we have with prompt answers. Our community supported your government at the election polls and would like to have the community's major concern addressed. If there is anything further that we can do to assist in moving this project forward, please feel free to contact me at shelley.carter@mpsd.ca.

We invite you and the Honourable Rachna Singh, Minister of Education, to come to Mission to visit MSS. This will allow you to see the utmost need that this School District and community is advocating for - to replace the school with a new school. Not an upgrade, just plain and simple, a new school.

Sincerely,



Shelley Carter

Board Chair, SD75 Mission Public Schools

On behalf of the Board of Education: Tracy Loffler – Vice Chair/ Randy Cairns/ Linda Hamel/ Jash Bains

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Pc: [Honourable Rachna Singh, Minister of Education](#)
[Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance](#)
[Honourable Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food/MLA Mission Abbotsford](#)
[Bob D'Eith, MLA Mission Maple Ridge](#)
[Chris Brown](#), Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division
[Paul Horn, Mayor, City of Mission](#)
[Francois Bertrand, Executive Director, Capital Management Branch Capital Management Branch](#)
[Mission DPAC](#)
[Mission CUPE Branch Local 593](#)
[Mission Teachers Union](#)
[Mission Principals and Vice-Principals Association](#)
[Carolyn Broady, BCSTA President](#)
[The Mission Record](#)