



November 8, 2012

Ref: 162844

Parent Advisory Council  
c/o Bayview Community School  
2251 Collingwood St  
Vancouver BC V6K 2K7

Dear Parents:

I am responding to letters received from parents regarding the seismic upgrading of Bayview Community School in Vancouver.

As announced in May 2012, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia has re-evaluated more than 500 schools previously identified for potential funding under the School Seismic Mitigation Program. This updated assessment allows the Ministry of Education to better prioritize our school facility upgrades and retrofits and brings us significantly closer to our goal of ensuring all public schools are able to protect students and staff in the event of a major earthquake. The new assessment has identified 152 schools with at least one "high risk" building section that needs to be addressed with structural upgrades. I can assure you that Bayview Community School remains on this list for seismic retrofitting.

Student safety remains a top government priority and we continue our work to make sure BC schools are safer in the event of an earthquake. Since 2001, 40 capital and seismic projects worth more than \$188 million have been completed in the Vancouver School District.

The planning and delivery of a seismic project is often complex due to a number of factors, including student/staff health and safety and scheduling construction work around school hours, or relocating students temporarily to other facilities during the retrofitting process. Vancouver, being one of the oldest urban regions in the province, has nearly 70 public schools requiring structural upgrades. The Vancouver Board of Education is responsible for prioritizing seismic projects within its school district, and for planning and implementing the logistics of each construction project. You may wish to contact the Vancouver Board of Education regarding its plan for Bayview Community School.

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I can assure you that Ministry staff are working with Vancouver School District officials to enable school facilities upgrades to proceed as quickly as possible, while ensuring the health and safety of each school's students and staff during the process.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don McRae". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Don" being larger and more prominent than the last name "McRae".

Don McRae  
Minister

pc: Patti Bacchus, Chair, Board of Education, School District No. 39 (Vancouver)