



May 13, 2015

Ref: 181544

Gernot Kofer  
Email: [gk75@gmx.at](mailto:gk75@gmx.at)

Dear Gernot Kofer:

Thank you for your letter addressed to the Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education, regarding the seismic upgrade of Bayview Community School. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf.

Seismically upgrading schools that have been identified as 'high risk' is a top priority for my Ministry. The Province has committed funds to reduce the seismic risks and works closely with the Vancouver Board of Education to ensure available funds are used and all high-risk schools are improved as expeditiously as possible. To date, we have already spent over \$217 million to seismically upgrade 20 schools in Vancouver, and we have committed to spend another \$590 million, to ensure another 29 schools, including Bayview Community School, are seismically safe for kids.

As you are aware, the Vancouver School District is responsible for a large number of schools identified with high seismic risk and is working hard to set priorities and advance the projects to construction. Once priorities are set, the School District undertakes the pre-engineering and engineering work required to define the scope, schedule and costs of a project; or Project Development Report (PDR) as you reference in your letter. School District staff are best positioned to inform you as to the status of Bayview in the project development cycle.

In terms of the current condition of Bayview School, the Vancouver Board of Education is provided an Annual Facility Grant (AFG) intended to address aging building components, such as windows, and regular wear and tear. This year, the value of the School District's AFG is more than \$11.5 million from the Ministry. It is the responsibility of each school district to keep its district's facilities in good condition and to establish funding priorities.

In August 2014, the Ministry and the Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a Vancouver Project Office that will have designated resources to accelerate the completion of seismic projects in the School District. Since the MOU was signed, progress has been made in advancing the engineering work necessary on a number of projects. As a result, you can expect to see more projects move to tender and construction throughout the summer.

Again, thank you for writing. I appreciate having the opportunity to review your comments.

Sincerely,

Shanna Mason  
Assistant Deputy Minister