



Vancouver School Board

Media Backgrounder

For immediate release

December 3, 2004

Seismic issues in Vancouver public schools

Thanks to the collective advocacy efforts of parents, staff and trustees over the past 20 years, the Ministry of Education and premier have indicated their willingness to step up the work being done to address seismic issues in the Vancouver school district.

A province-wide seismic survey (the B.C. Seismic Assessment Program) conducted over the summer provided the necessary information to develop a well-laid out plan for Vancouver schools. Remaining schools that require seismic upgrading have been placed in priority order.

Seismic upgrading began in the Vancouver school district in the 1980s. Since that time, all schools have benefited from *non-structural* hazard-reducing initiatives, including:

- installation of emergency lighting
- tie downs of ceiling ventilation diffusers
- tie downs of suspended heaters
- stabilization of chimneys
- installation of automatic shut offs on gas valves
- tie downs of lockers
- strengthening of covered play areas supports

Funding for this work, in addition to renovations to several schools, has come from the Ministry of Education and totaled \$108 million.

Trustees are now urging the ministry to complete all seismic upgrading work in the district by 2014, at a cost of approximately \$365 million or \$46 million per year. The premier has indicated he would support a 15-year program for all high priority schools. A formal announcement is expected next spring.

The Vancouver school district is one of the oldest in the province. Almost 90 schools were built before 1967 when seismic criteria were first included in building codes. The recent province-wide seismic audit used criteria that will be contained in the 2005 Building Code.

Schools still requiring seismic upgrading have been ranked according to:

High priority – the structure has major seismic deficiencies. It is expected that there could be extensive damage following an earthquake.

Moderate priority – the structure does not meet current building code standards, but will likely withstand a moderate earthquake.

Low priority – the structure may have some minor deficiencies, but substantially meets building code standards. The building should be able to withstand an earthquake with only some cosmetic repairs required.

The following schools are not included in the list:

New schools – Magee, Collingwood, Elsie Roy, University Hill Elementary

Renovations in progress – Byng, Van Horne

Renovations already approved – Dickens, Kerrisdale, Vancouver Technical

Planning process under way – John Oliver, Sexsmith

Requiring no further upgrading – Hastings, Tecumseh

The following is a list of schools still requiring seismic upgrades in priority order.

2004 VSB SCHOOL SEISMIC RANKING

Schools 1 - 5 Excluded From Ranking - Seismic Upgrading is in Progress

Van Tech Sec. John Oliver Sec.	Kerrisdale Elem. Dickens Elem.	Sexsmith Elem.
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ORDER BY SEISMIC RANK

School Name	Seismic Rank	School Name	Seismic Rank	School Name	Seismic Rank
Kitsilano Sec.	6	Quilchena Elem.	39	Maquinna Elem.	72
Killarney Sec.	7	Beaconsfield Elem.	40	Queen Elizabeth A.	73
Gladstone Sec.	8	Waverley Elem.	41	McKechnie Elem.	74
David Thomp. Sec.	9	Bayview Elem.	42	Queen Alexandra Elem.	75
Prince of Wales Sec.	10	Wolfe Elem.	43	Dickens Annex	76
Windermere Sec.	11	Mount Pleasant Elem.	44	McBride Annex	77
Point Grey Sec.	12	Maple Grove Elem.	45	Tupper Sec.	78
Templeton Sec.	13	Carnarvon Elem.	46	Bruce Elem.	79
Hamber Sec.	14	Southlands Elem.	47	Selkirk Elem.	80
Strathcona Elem.	15	Lloyd George Elem.	48	Tecumseh Annex	81
Churchill Sec.	16	Mackenzie Elem.	49	Laurier Annex	82
Secord Elem.	17	Livingstone Elem.	50	Tyee Elem.	83
Britannia Sec.	18	Champlain Heights Elem.	51	Byng Sec.	84
Quesnel Elem.	19	Nightingale Elem.	52	Roberts Annex	85
Carleton Elem.	20	Franklin Elem.	53	Seymour Elem.	86
Gordon Elem.	21	University Hill Sec.	54	Tillicum Annex	87
Kitchener Elem.	22	False Creek Elem.	55	McBride Elem.	88
Moberly Elem.	23	Cavell Elem.	56	Maquinna Annex	89
Nelson Elem.	24	Shaughnessy Elem.	57	Douglas Annex	90
King George Sec.	25	Renfrew Elem.	58	Macdonald Elem.	91
Cook Elem.	26	Cunningham Elem.	59	Kerrisdale Annex	92
Trafalgar Elem.	27	Carr Elem.	60	Champlain Heights A.	93
Douglas Elem.	28	Queen Elizabeth Elem.	61	Garibaldi Annex	94
Queen Mary Elem.	29	Nootka Elem.	62	Ideal Mini	95
L'Ecole Bilingue Elem.	30	Hudson Elem.	63	Britannia Elem.	96
Fleming Elem.	31	Osler Elem.	64	Total Education	97
Kingsford-Smith Elem.	32	Lord Elem.	65	Queen Victoria A.	98
Weir Elem.	33	Grandview Elem.	66	Henderson Annex	99
Begbie Elem.	34	Oppenheimer Elem.	67	Laurier Elem.	100
Grenfell Elem.	35	Henderson Elem.	68	Norquay Elem.	101
Jamieson Elem.	36	Thunderbird Elem.	69	Fraser Elem.	102
Tennyson Elem.	37	Selkirk Annex	70	Van Horne Elem.	103
MacCorkindale Elem.	38	Brock Elem.	71		

Schools Not Requiring Further Seismic Upgrade

(Low and moderate-low seismic classifications only)

Hastings Elem. Roberts Elem. Tecumseh Elem.

Schools Excluded From Assessment Program

(New or renovated to recent building code standards)

University Hill Elem. Magee Sec. Collingwood Neighbourhood School Elsie Roy Elem. Trudeau Elem.
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