

Dear FSSS supporter:

A year ago, Premier Gordon Campbell announced to delegates at a Liberal Convention at Whistler that, *"All seismic upgrades that are required in BC schools will be completed in the next 15 years. That will require \$1.5-billion in capital investment over the next 15 years, but that's what you can do when the economy is working."*

The announcement came after a year and a half of lobbying by FSSS and the hundreds of parents who joined us in demanding that BC's unsafe schools be upgraded to protect our children.

FSSS welcomed the Premier's announcement and the following completion of the first step — an up-to-date assessment of all at-risk BC schools in seismically active zones. But the work has only just begun and at the current pace, today's kindergarten children could potentially spend all their school years in unsafe schools.

At this time of year, FSSS recalls the tragic October 31, 2002 school collapse in San Giuliano di Puglia, Italy, where twenty-six children died while attending a school Halloween party when an earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale hit their village causing their school to collapse, but leaving all other buildings standing.

It is difficult to believe that just three years later, that tragedy is hugely overshadowed by the thousands of children killed following the earthquake-triggered destruction of 6,700 schools in Pakistan and 1,300 in Pakistan-administered Kashmir this fall.

And sadly, in May 2003, 85 students were killed at a Turkish boarding school near the city of Bingöl when their school collapsed in an earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale.

FSSS is deeply saddened at these preventable deaths of children, and is committed to ensuring students in our province are made safe.

While we have made progress, there is still much work to do. We must keep reminding our MLAs and school trustees that this is a top priority and the pace should be increased to reduce the risk to our children. FSSS also encourages families to remind their MPs of their commitments to a federal contribution to BC upgrades that were made during election time. When the next federal election is called, we must step up the pressure as federal dollars could speed up the process.

**Please show your support for this issue by sending the emails below with your comments to your MLAs and MPs.**

On October 25, 2005, Vancouver Centre MP Hedy Fry made the following statement in the House of Commons (from Hansard):

*Disaster Preparedness*

*Hon. Hedy Fry (Vancouver Centre, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, recent tragic events in New Orleans in the wake of Katrina and the recent earthquake in Kashmir should give us reason to reflect on human impotence in the face of nature's savage wrath.*

*I know that it has rudely shaken us out of complacency in B.C., because for us it is not a question of whether there will be a massive earthquake in B.C., but when. Unlike Katrina, there will be no warning. It will be sudden and brutal and the lives of 32,000 schoolchildren in certain B.C. schools will be in danger.*

*These particular schools are not structurally capable of withstanding even a moderate earthquake, so the provincial government has set aside \$1.5 billion over 15 years to upgrade schools. Yet scientists tell us we are overdue in B.C. for the big one, so we may not have 15 years.*

*We can help to speed up the restructuring project by designating B.C. schools as critical infrastructure and putting the funds in place to do so immediately. This presents a real opportunity for our federal government to show its disaster preparedness plan in action.*

Thank you for your continued support.

FSSS

[www.fssbc.org](http://www.fssbc.org)

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How to send this email to your **Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)**:

1. Open up a new email, and copy the text below into the body of your new email.
2. If you know the email address of your MLA, simply insert it into the "To..." field of your new email. If you do not know the email address of your MLA, click on <http://www.legis.gov.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm>. Copy his/her email address into the "To..." field.
3. Copy the following addresses into the "Cc..." field of your new email:  
[shirley.bond.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:shirley.bond.mla@leg.bc.ca); [gordon.campbell.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:gordon.campbell.mla@leg.bc.ca);  
[john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca); [carole.james.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:carole.james.mla@leg.bc.ca); [john.les.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:john.les.mla@leg.bc.ca);  
[carole.taylor.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:carole.taylor.mla@leg.bc.ca);
4. Enter your name at the end (and anything else that you would like to add).
5. Click on "Send".

Dear Member of Legislative Assembly:

I am writing to tell you that seismic upgrading of all at-risk BC public schools is a top priority for me and my family. I am pleased the provincial government has pledged to upgrade all schools by 2019, but I am concerned about this long time line and worried that the work may not be completed as promised.

I am asking you, as my MLA, to advocate for an increased pace to ensure the work is completed sooner rather than later. I also request binding legislation be established to commit future government to carry out the promised upgrades. Lastly, I ask that you provide open and transparent annual reporting so that all stakeholders can monitor the progress of seismic upgrading of BC schools.

It is terrible to think that BC children could suffer the terrible fate thousands of children did when their lives were taken by the collapse of their unsafe schools in the recent earthquake in Pakistan. Those deaths were preventable and could have been avoided by responsible action by government. We have thousands of children sitting in unsafe schools in BC right now — it's time to take responsibility and action.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

Regards,

<your name>

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How to send this email to your **Member of Parliament (MP)**:

6. Open up a new email, and copy the text below into the body of your new email.
7. If you know the email address of your MP, simply insert it into the "To..." field of your new email. If you do not know the email address of your MP, click on <http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/people/house/PostalCode.asp?Language=E&source=sm>. Copy his/her email address into the "To..." field.

8. Copy the following addresses into the "Cc..." field of your new email:  
[godfrey.j@parl.gc.ca](mailto:godfrey.j@parl.gc.ca); [goodale.r@parl.gc.ca](mailto:goodale.r@parl.gc.ca); [harper.s@parl.gc.ca](mailto:harper.s@parl.gc.ca); [layton.j@parl.gc.ca](mailto:layton.j@parl.gc.ca);  
[martin.p@parl.gc.ca](mailto:martin.p@parl.gc.ca); [mclellan.a@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mclellan.a@parl.gc.ca); [owen.s@parl.gc.ca](mailto:owen.s@parl.gc.ca);
9. Enter your name at the end (and anything else that you would like to add).
10. Click on "Send".

Dear Member of Parliament:

I am writing to remind you of the commitment many federal candidates made in the last election campaign to make the seismic upgrading of at-risk BC public schools a federal issue as part of the Canada's Disaster Mitigation Strategy, and to include schools in the inventory of the country's critical infrastructure. Candidates also expressed support for federal funding to increase the pace of seismic upgrades by our provincial government.

As we may be heading into another federal election, I remind you that federal support for upgrading BC's seismically at-risk schools is a high priority for me and my family. It is terrible to think that BC children could suffer the terrible fate thousands of children did when their lives were taken by the collapse of their unsafe schools in the recent earthquake in Pakistan. Those deaths were preventable and could have been avoided by responsible action by government. We have thousands of children sitting in unsafe schools in BC right now — it's time to take responsibility.

Please let me know what you have done, and what you will do, to provide federal support for making BC's school children safe in their schools.

Regards,

<your name>