

Vancouver School Board  
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#### SCHEDULE NEEDED FOR SEISMIC UPGRADES

School trustees say the Vancouver School Board looks forward to working with the provincial government in implementing its seismic upgrading program.

The board is especially keen to help the government bring in a timeline for the 15-year seismic vision it has released.

VSB chair, Adrienne Montani, says, "Children and their parents need to know when they can expect their schools to be safe. The government needs to give specific target dates for specific schools, not vague promises that are made at the start of an election campaign."

The Vancouver School Board continues to demand that all seismic upgrading of the 80 city schools that require it, be completed in 10 years. The government plan adopts a 15-year program and fails to prioritize the remaining schools that have not been fast-tracked. Montani says it also fails to outline how the government's ambitious \$1.5 billion seismic project will be carried out beyond a promise to start planning now, and to start construction two years for now.

The Vancouver school district is one of the oldest in the province and almost 90 of its 109 schools were constructed before seismic standards were included in building codes. Only one of the city's high schools is being fast-tracked, yet nine of its secondary schools lead the district's ranking of schools requiring seismic work.

Montani also paid tribute to the grassroots work done by Families for School Seismic Safety, which helped raise awareness of the seismic issue. "Once again, advocacy has succeeded in making things happen to improve the education of students in our school system."

The board continues to believe that legislation should be passed to ensure all seismic work is completed throughout the province.

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