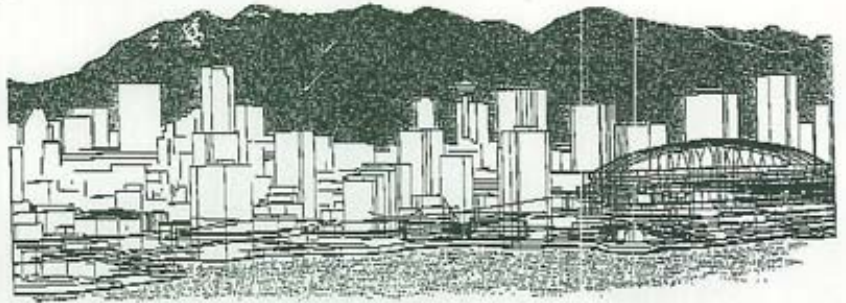


VANCOUVER
SECONDARY
TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION



10 October 2003

The Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier, Province of British Columbia
PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E1

Dear Mr. Campbell:

On behalf of Vancouver's 1600 secondary school teachers, I am expressing support for the document relative to the threat of earthquakes to Vancouver school children. This was submitted to you by Dr. Tracy Monk of Families for School Seismic Safety. Dr. Monk's extensive report outlines the magnitude of the problem facing southwestern British Columbia in light of the geological evidence that there will be at least a moderate and possibly a severe earthquake in British Columbia within the lifespan of our city.

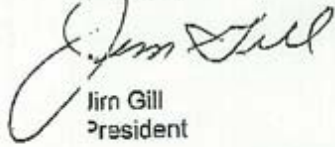
There are 47 schools in the Vancouver School District whose structural materials puts them at risk of moderate to catastrophic damage during an earthquake of Modified Mercalli Intensity from 6.5 to 7.5. These schools accommodate close to 30,000 students and 2600 staff.

Seattle has schools of similar number and age to those in Vancouver. That city has taken a proactive approach to mitigating seismic risks to their school population. Seismic upgrading of Seattle schools began in 1982 and by 2008 will be completed. By contrast, it will take Vancouver another 60 years to complete upgrading its schools if the current pace continues.

We urge your government to take all steps to address this critical deficiency. Surely the life of even one child is as important as an Olympic bobsledding run.

The geological risk is apparent. We may not have 60 years to complete this work. Instead, we may face the type of tragedy which occurred recently in San Giuliano di Puglia, Italy.

Sincerely,



Jim Gill
President

cc: Christy Clark, Minister of Education
Gary Collins, Minister of Finance
Larry Campbell, Mayor, City of Vancouver
Steven Owen, MP
Herb Dhaliwal, MP