

FROM THE PREMIER'S OFFICE

Thank you for your email regarding seismic upgrading for public schools. I assure you that our government takes this issue very seriously.

The Seismic Mitigation Program, operating under the Ministry of Finance, concluded on March 31 of this year. Since that time, the Ministry of Education has taken direct responsibility for funding structural modifications to schools, and as such, they will provide funding for seismic upgrades to districts in the form of capital grants.

In future years, school boards will include seismic mitigation projects in their capital plan submissions. As with all capital grants, school boards must conduct audits on all of their facilities following a set of prescribed criteria. Based on the results of the internal audits, consultants will provide a detailed analysis for schools identified as the most in need. Funding for seismic mitigation projects will be allocated according to provincial guidelines, assessments of building risks, and within individual budgets.

As you may be aware, our government announced a \$611 million investment in school capital projects over the next three years, which includes seismic upgrading for six schools. We also allocated an additional \$8.1 million to seismic upgrades, which will benefit twenty-three schools in eight districts. The safety of students and staff are of paramount importance to our government, and we intend to continue investing in our schools.

I appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gordon Campbell
Premier