



**Victoria Confederation of
Parent Advisory Councils**

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This letter concerns the earthquake threat to the children of School District 61, and the province as a whole. The VCPAC would like to lend its support to Families for School Seismic Safety (FSSS).

Funding is insufficient in School District 61 to complete the seismic upgrading necessary to make schools safe for our children. Until recently most parents were unaware of the serious safety risk to their children. The recent seismic survey completed by our District shows clearly that many of our children are at high risk of injury or death. The methodology of the risk assessment by TBG is apparently exemplary, and should be standardized and peer-reviewed for possible use province-wide.

According to the survey, 27 out of our District's 51 schools are an "unacceptable life risk for students and teachers". This is incredible.

Why is the Province not moving more quickly to fix this? Our District has received inadequate funding – some schools are only being partially upgraded, while others only recently identified as being at risk have not even been addressed as yet.

We support Families for School Seismic Safety in their effort to find a solution to this crisis. We would like to see the development of a School Building Seismic Safety Program, funded by Capital dollars, not out of the current District budget. We would like to see a risk assessment infrastructure, which incorporates recent advances in seismic engineering. The time frame for completing seismic upgrades to schools at high risk should be short, and only adequate funding can ensure that this will happen. All levels of government should be involved in this initiative.

This issue is of grave concern to parents in School District 61. We ask that you act quickly to ensure that we can prevent a potential tragedy.

Sincerely,

VCPAC