

December 9, 2025

Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Infrastructure
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Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

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Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Education and Child Care
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RE: Funding for Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School

Dear Honourable Lisa Beare and Honourable Bowinn Ma,

We write to request the Province's position regarding the Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School ("Carleton"). Specifically, the Vancouver School Board ("VSB") is seeking to understand if the Province is supportive of the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (the "Conseil") in acquiring the Carleton site for a new Conseil secondary school or not. The VSB is requesting the Province's position on funding the Conseil's site acquisition of Carleton in light of recent public statements of Vancouver – Renfrew MLA Adrian Dix who also serves as the Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs. MLA Adrian Dix has asked the VSB not to close Carleton and indicated that the Province's previous decisions not to fund the VSB's request to repair and seismically upgrade Carleton should not be considered as a reason for closing Carleton.

The VSB is currently undergoing public consultation regarding the closure of Carleton. Closure is being considered because:

- (a) Carleton is currently empty due to a fire in 2016 that rendered the buildings unfit for use as a school; and
- (b) the Conseil requested the Carleton site from the VSB for a new Conseil secondary school in January 2024.

Background facts

The 2016 fire and the decisions not to fund repair and seismic upgrades of Carleton

Carleton was severely damaged by fire in August 2016 rendering the school unusable. It has not been used for VSB educational purposes since. The Province has denied multiple funding requests, including in 2019, to repair and seismically upgrade Carleton on the basis that the business case does not support the investment in Carleton when sufficient enrolling space is available in other schools in the area. Notwithstanding the fact that Carleton is not operated as a school, the Carleton site still has significant maintenance costs. As a result, the VSB has spent approximately \$650,000 since the fire to keep vacant buildings secure.

The commencement of the process to close Carleton

On June 26, 2023, the Board of Trustees (the “Board”), approved a motion to begin public consultation to close Carleton in accordance with the VSB’s Board Policy 14 - School Closure.

As a result of the November 30, 2023 legislative changes in the *Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, 2023* as well as zoning changes by the City of Vancouver in 2023 allowing for increased density, the VSB decided to pause its Carleton closure process to allow VSB staff time to update the enrollment projections for VSB schools, including for the area around Carleton. Starting in the autumn of 2023, the VSB undertook an updating of its student enrolment projections in light of those legislative and zoning changes.

The Conseil made a request for the acquisition of Carleton

On January 16, 2024, the Conseil wrote a letter to the VSB requesting the Carleton site. On March 11, 2024, the VSB responded to the Conseil explaining that it was updating its enrolment projections and was not in a position to make a decision on Carleton until that was complete. The VSB also noted that it would like confirmation that the Province was supportive of the Conseil’s request. These letters were copied to the Minister of Education and Child Care.

On December 2, 2024, the Conseil wrote that, in prior correspondence to the Minister, “the Conseil specifically requested that the Ministry of Education confirm its support for the Conseil’s request to acquire a site and construct a new secondary school in Vancouver, east of Main Street...The Conseil reiterates its request that the Ministry of Education write jointly to the Conseil and the VBE to confirm that it supports the Conseil’s acquisition of the Carleton site for the construction of a new secondary school.” This letter was copied to the Minister.

The VSB concludes its enrolment projections and reinitiates the closure consultation process

In June 2025, the VSB determined, based on updated enrolment projections, that Carleton is not necessary to accommodate enrolment in that area currently or in the future. Therefore, on October 1, 2025, the VSB restarted the public engagement process regarding the proposed closure of Carleton.

The Conseil has confirmed its request to acquire the Carleton site for a new secondary school

On October 20, 2025, the Conseil wrote a letter to Damien Crowell, Executive Director, Education & Child Care Capital Branch requesting the Province’s position regarding “the Conseil’s request to acquire the Carleton Elementary school site for the construction of a Conseil secondary school.”

On November 15, 2025, the Conseil confirmed its interest in the Carleton site in a letter to the VSB.

The VSB’s consultation process to date and the statements of MLA Adrian Dix

The VSB has conducted surveys of stakeholders and received a large number of email submissions. As well, the VSB held a Public Delegation meeting on November 24, 2025 and plans on holding a second meeting on December 15, 2025.

As you are aware, school closures can be difficult for parents, communities and school boards. The Honourable Adrian Dix as MLA for Vancouver – Renfrew has been making public statements advocating against the closure of Carleton. At VSB’s November 24, 2025 Public Delegation Meeting, Ms. Emily Tsang, MLA Adrian Dix’s senior constituency assistant, read a statement on behalf of MP Don Davies and MLA Adrian Dix opposing closure of Carleton.

We understand that MLA Dix has since given statements to the media stating that “the Province’s denial of a capital funding request made in 2019 is not a valid reason for considering the closure of Carleton.”

Additional information, including all the public feedback collected to date is available on our [website](#).

The Board of Trustees of VSB will be voting as to whether to close Carleton or not on December 17, 2025.

VSB’s request to the Province

The VSB requests that the Province advise whether it will support the funding of the Conseil’s possible acquisition of the Carleton site. If not, then the VSB seeks clarification regarding MLA Dix’s request that the VSB not close Carleton, specifically whether the Province is now advising the VSB that it will support the repair and seismic upgrade of Carleton for use by VSB students. If this is the intent, please notify the VSB by December 12, 2025.

We request the Province’s position on the funding of Carleton by **December 12, 2025** which is three days before the second public meeting and five days before the date scheduled for the Board to vote as to whether to close Carleton or not.

Sincerely,



Victoria Jung, Chairperson
Vancouver School Board

CC: Honourable Adrian Dix, MLA for Vancouver – Renfrew
Marie-Pierre Lavoie, Chair, Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique
Bobbi Plecas, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Infrastructure
Jennifer McCrea, Acting Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Child Care
Vincent Tourvieille, Secretary-Treasurer, Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique