

OUR PLAN

The Vancouver School Board has submitted an \$850 million capital plan request to the Ministry of Education in order to upgrade or replace over the next five years 30 of the 42 schools which have a high seismic risk. In addition, our five year capital plan includes requests for three new schools as well as building envelope and mechanical upgrade projects

WHY IS IT SUCH A LARGE SUBMISSION?

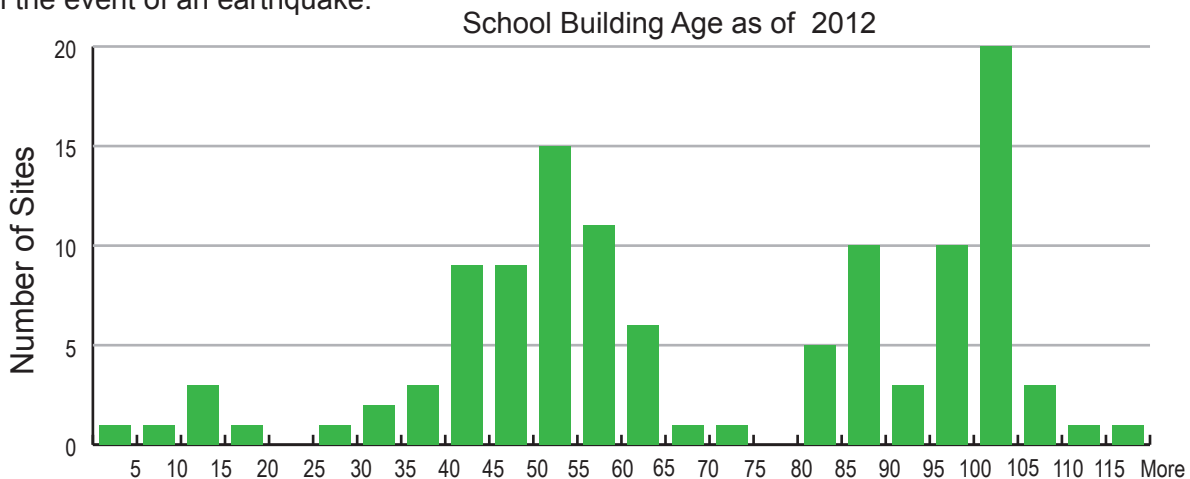
For years Vancouver students, parents and trustees advocated for Vancouver's many seismically at-risk schools to be upgraded or replaced to ensure all students and employees are safe. The provincial government agreed and announced in 2005 that all at-risk schools would be upgraded or replaced by 2020. While we have made progress toward this target with the completion of a number of projects and funding commitments and plans are in place for several more, we still need to secure funding for the **42 remaining high risk schools, which have not yet received funding support.**



Laura Secord Elementary School completed in 2011

BACKGROUND

Over half of our 109 schools are over 50 years old and 25 schools are over 100 years old. Due to their age and construction styles, many have been assessed by engineers as being at high risk of significant structural damage in the event of an earthquake.

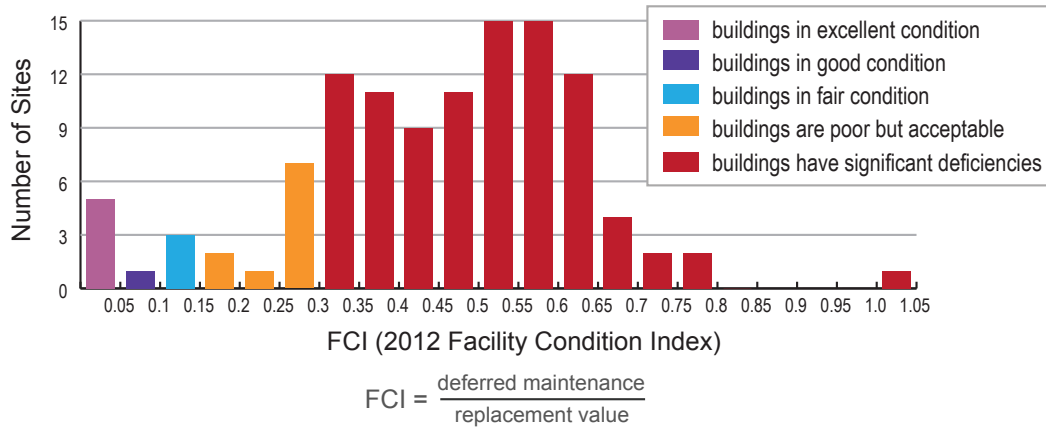


Deferred Maintenance

In addition to the urgent need to seismically upgrade buildings to life safety standards in order to be prepared for earthquakes, our aging stock of schools need at least \$766 million of outstanding maintenance work in 2012. According to a 2011 report on school assessments done as part of a provincial program, this deferred maintenance cost will grow to \$1.004 billion by 2017 if we do not address the issue now.

“Completing all the outstanding projects will ensure the safety of generations of Vancouver students.”

- Peggy Alca
Kitchener Elementary Seismic Committee Member



Facility Condition

Not including seismic upgrade costs, the Ministry of Education’s Facility Condition Index (FCI) states that in many cases our systems have reached the end of their life span. The district’s infrastructure is at risk for serious failure. To maintain the current average FCI of 0.47, \$1.14 billion is needed over the next 20 years for all 109 schools. An additional \$280 million would be needed to reduce the FCI to a more reasonable level of 0.2.



Annual Facility Grant

Current funding for minor building upgrades and maintenance (called the “Annual Facilities Grant”, or AFG) is woefully inadequate according to industry standards to appropriately maintain buildings and places these facilities at risk of further degradation. This funding must be increased and must be stable in order to sustainably maintain our facilities.

Heritage Value

In some cases it is more expensive to seismically retrofit schools than it is to replace them. New schools are built to greater structural safety standards and are more likely to be safe to use immediately after an earthquake than retrofitted buildings. However, the district is also home to many significant heritage school buildings that are valued by communities. This creates additional challenges for completing the seismic mitigation program.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

According to cost estimates in the *2011 Coriolis Report* to the VSB, seismically upgrading all 42 schools without completing any deferred maintenance would cost approximately \$618 million while replacing them would cost \$857 million. Alternatively, retrofitting schools to address both seismic and deferred maintenance could cost over one billion dollars. As noted, the five year capital plan submitted by the VSB requests \$850 million in capital funding. Additional funding would be required after 2017 to complete the remaining projects.

WHAT WE NEED

- The Vancouver School Board needs funding in place to upgrade or replace 42 remaining schools with high seismic risk
- We need funding in advance of project approvals to allow for planning and seismic investigation
- We need provincial funding to support the development of a Vancouver School Board-governed *Project Office* to carry out these complex and large projects
- We need the province to adopt a seven year seismic timeline to complete all projects by 2020

For further information, see <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/capital-projects>