

**Subject:** Re: 196148 | Seismic Upgrades in Vancouver

**From:** Robert Ford <robert@quokkasystems.com>

**Date:** 2017-10-29 9:55 AM

**To:** Lesley.Ballman@gov.bc.ca

**CC:** "Education Funding Department EDUC:EX" <Education.FundingDepartment@gov.bc.ca>

Dear Lesley,

Thanks for your letter dated October 17, 2017. It's really good to know the ideas from minor players like me can make it through. When faced with big problems, this is a good feeling.

At Henry Hudson Elementary in Vancouver, we have formed a Seismic Upgrade Committee. You will likely be hearing from that group in the near future as they work to constructively find ways to deal with Henry Hudson Elementary's terrible situation. (E.g. I invite you to come visit the bathrooms.)

For the moment I have two questions and a request for information that will aid me in my analysis of the situation and constructive advocacy.

In your letter you wrote "The Ministry is committed to accelerating the school Seismic Mitigation Program." This is good but then it occurred to me that no specific measurement is attached. The process for Kitsilano Secondary was supposed to complete before my daughter went to the school. The project is near the end, now, in her grade 11 year. "Acceleration" would not be difficult if this project is the baseline measurement.

**Question 1:** Is there a measurement system for this acceleration? If so, what is it?

Also in your letter is the discussion of enrollment in the Vancouver School District. I thought that the asserted extra capacity had been used up by the Supreme Court of Canada ruling on class size and composition. Regardless, enrollment (high or low) has no bearing on seismic safety of any of the structures. What it does speak to is risk. Two equally high risk schools (one with 100 children and other with 300 children) is just as likely to fall down in a 7.1 quake, but the 300-person school will suffer more casualties and therefore is a higher priority.

I would like to assume that enrollment, including projected enrollment, would be taken into consideration at the planning phase of each project. Babies do this cool thing – they give you five years notice before they need a kindergarten space!

**Question 2:** Do you have the student count as of September 30, 2017 for each school on this list?

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/resource-management/capital-planning/seismic-mitigation/progress\\_report.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/resource-management/capital-planning/seismic-mitigation/progress_report.pdf)

I have some ideas on how to analyze the problem but I need some raw data.

I think what citizens of British Columbia, particularly parents, are looking for is full commitment to complete Seismic Mitigation Program with a believable plan attached. I suggest that each school receive a target date based on risk and industrial capacity of each school district. These dates should be reviewed every September 30 with fresh enrollment data.

May I rely on you to relay this information to the Premier and Ministers of Education and Finance?

Thanks,

- Rob.

On 2017-10-17 4:15 PM, Education Funding Department EDUC:EX wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email regarding seismic upgrades in Vancouver. We appreciate you taking the time to write, as we value feedback or concerns from those invested in our public education system.

I am pleased to forward a response to your email from Lesley Ballman, Regional Director, Capital Management Branch, and we welcome any further comments or questions you may have.

Have a great day,

Rosa Cutler, Administrative Coordinator

Ministry of Education | Resource Management and Executive Financial Office Division

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 620 Superior Street, Victoria BC V8W 9H1 , 250-896-4816 – Mobile



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Robert Ford  
Quokka Systems Consulting  
[www.quokkasystems.com](http://www.quokkasystems.com)  
604-644-6796