Date: [[\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]]

To: [[Name/address from the list]]

From: [[Your name and address]]

Re: Henry Hudson Elementary Seismic Upgrade

Dear [[ Name from the list]],

I am a [[parent/guardian]] at Henry Hudson Elementary in Vancouver in the Kitsilano neighbourhood. My child[[ren]] is/are aged [[x ]]. [[Tell a bit about yourself and your connection to the community]]

I understand that the Ministry of Education has received Hudson's Project Definition Report. I also understand that the Seismic Upgrade program only covers repairing or replacing the school for its current population. Right now, Hudson is over capacity and last year a decision was made to phase out the French Immersion program starting this September due to space constraints.

This Fall 2020, 98 children applied for Kindergarten and there were 60 spots!

On top of this, the Squamish Nation has a serious proposal for 6000 family-friendly units with very little parking **100 metres from Hudson**. Are we at risk sending even more children away from their local school? In addition, the Molson lands – also 100 meters from Hudson - will be redeveloped in the coming years. And there are dozens of other developments all around us.

This letter presumes that you are considering a new school. A retrofit will be a waste of money as the school will be repaired but unable to handle its current demand, let alone future demands. And will continue to be inaccessible for those with mobility limitations.

The current overcrowding situation, future development pressures and a First Nations neighbour offers an opportunity to do Reconciliation differently. The future children need a school to attend, and current families already need a bigger one. Let’s use our seismic upgrade to work collaboratively with the Squamish Nation to achieve this win-win.

We need to look at options to build for the future, including the addition of new classrooms during the rebuild or at the very least designing the building for future growth, including reinforcing the foundations today to accommodate expansion to future floors in the future. This would be far cheaper than trying to later find additional space in the area, given current land pricing.

Please let me know your view on this situation,