



June 11, 2025

Capital Management Branch

Ministry of Infrastructure
PO Box 9151 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9H1

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Request for Consideration of Housing Projects in Capital Funding Streams

On behalf of the Pacific Rim School District's Board of Education, we wish to extend our appreciation for the continued partnership and support the Ministry provides to school districts across British Columbia through its capital funding programs.

As Boards of Education work to provide high-quality public education in communities across the province, one of the growing challenges we face - particularly in rural, remote, and high-cost regions - is the recruitment and retention of staff due to the lack of affordable housing options. The ongoing housing crisis has placed considerable strain on our ability to attract qualified educators, support staff, and administrators, and in turn, threatens the stability and continuity of student learning.

In addition to the need for new housing options, many school districts also operate existing housing accommodation that is aging and in need of repair. Ongoing support, for both new construction and the upkeep of current housing, is essential to ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions. As school districts are not permitted to charge fair market rent, there is little opportunity to generate reserve funding for capital upgrades or major repairs - making Ministry support critical to preserving these important resources.

We respectfully ask the Ministry to consider including housing initiatives, most specifically for those school district's located in rural areas, within an existing capital funding stream, such as Minor or Major Capital, or to explore the development of a dedicated program to support this need.

Several districts have undertaken innovative housing projects in collaboration with local governments, First Nations, and non-profit partners, but the scale of need requires broader provincial support. Funding assistance for housing accommodation would not only help address recruitment and retention challenges, but also contribute to the Ministry's goals of equity, access, and sustainability in public education.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and explore how we might work together to address the housing challenges impacting school districts across the province. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to supporting BC's learners and those who serve them.

Sincerely,

Pam Craig, Board Chair,
Board of Education, Pacific Rim School District
4690 Roger Street, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 3Z4 www.sd70.bc.ca