



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: Continued Support for Seismic Mitigation Fund (SMF)

On behalf of the Pacific Rim School District's Board of Education, we are writing to express our deep concern regarding the Ministry's decision not to approve any Seismic Mitigation Fund (SMF) projects for the 2025/2026 funding year. We understand that the Ministry is considering the removal of the SMF from future funding streams, and we urge the Ministry to reconsider this direction.

British Columbia is one of the most seismically active regions in Canada, with our district in particular located directly along the Cascadia subduction zone - a fault line known to be capable of generating megathrust earthquakes with catastrophic impacts. The safety and well-being of students and staff must remain a top priority, and the SMF has been instrumental in ensuring our schools are equipped to withstand seismic events. The elimination of this dedicated funding source would put significant pressure on districts already struggling to address critical infrastructure needs and would pose long-term safety risks in many communities, including ours.

While we recognize the fiscal constraints faced by the province, discontinuing the SMF undermines years of progress toward seismic resilience and contradicts our shared commitment to student safety. The Seismic Mitigation Program has not only protected lives but also reinforced public confidence in the safety of BC's public education system.

We respectfully request that the Ministry maintain and prioritize the Seismic Mitigation Fund as a core capital funding stream. We also encourage the Ministry to collaborate with Boards of Education on alternative approaches that may ensure the continued advancement of seismic upgrades across the province, particularly in regions where seismic risk is most acute.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to further dialogue and remain committed to working collaboratively with the Ministry to safeguard the future of our school infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Pam Craig, Board Chair,
Board of Education, Pacific Rim School District
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