

**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BUSINESS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING  
INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: November 9, 2022  
TO: Business Committee  
FROM: Dale Burgos, Executive Director of Communications and  
Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer  
SUBJECT: Award of Merit – Recognition of NLPS's Long Range Facilities Plan

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## Background

In early fall 2020 the Board of Education directed staff to draft a Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP). A draft LRFP was presented to the Business Committee later that fall for review and consideration. A revised draft plan was subsequently presented to the Board and community partners in February 2021 for initial feedback followed by consultation via electronic open houses in March 2021. On May 26, 2021, the Board of Education approved the [LRFP](#).

## Discussion

Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools (NLPS) is facing a capacity crunch and has just ended a period of significant enrolment decline. Increasing enrolment combined with the return of collective agreement language, which reinstated class size and composition, has put NLPS at its capacity leading to an increase in the use of portable and modular space as well as a loss of space for amenities in many of our schools. The LRFP communications and engagement strategy will be a key driver in providing and collecting timely information from students, staff and general community.

The LRFP along with the communications and engagement strategy was submitted for consideration in the BRAVO! Awards *Communications Project* category for the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) organization. The award was presented at the annual gala evening, this year held in Victoria, B.C.

CACE is made up of 350+ communications and public relations professionals from all provinces and territories. The BRAVO! Award is the sole award available to communications professionals working in K-12 education. The award was presented to Tiffany Skibinsky, Shauna DeBodt, Mark Walsh and Dale Burgos.

The communications team has received previous awards for their NLPS ED Talks Podcast, #Singing Superintendent, #ReconciliAction video series and the creation of our mobile application.

## Appendix A: Long Range Facilities Plan