



March 15, 2024

Ref: 297326

To: Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent
School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)

Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2024/25-CPSD68-01

Re: Ministry Response to the Annual Five-Year Capital Plan Submission for 2024/25

This letter is in response to your School District's 2024/25 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan submissions for Major Capital Programs and Minor Capital Programs and provides direction for advancing supported and approved capital projects. **Please see all bolded sections below for information.**

The Ministry has reviewed all 60 school districts' Annual Five-Year Capital Plan submissions for Major Capital Programs and Minor Capital Programs to determine priorities for available capital funding in the following programs:

- Seismic Mitigation Program (SMP)
- Expansion Program (EXP)
- Replacement Program (REP)
- Site Acquisition Program (SAP)
- Rural District Program (RDP)
- School Enhancement Program (SEP)
- Food Infrastructure Program (FIP)
- Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP)
- Building Envelope Program (BEP)
- Playground Equipment Program (PEP)
- Bus Acquisition Program (BUS)

The following tables identify major capital projects that are supported to proceed to the next stage, if applicable, as well as minor capital projects that are approved for funding and can proceed to procurement.

Projects in Development from Previous Years

Project #	Project Name	Project Type	Comments
154916	North Oyster Elementary	Seismic	Please submit Project Definition Report (PDR) to Ministry as soon as possible.
150074	Ladysmith Primary	Addition	Please submit PDR to Ministry as soon as possible.
150397	Ladysmith Intermediate	Seismic	Please submit PDR to Ministry as soon as possible.

Follow-up meetings will be scheduled by your respective Regional Director or Planning Officer regarding next steps. Also, note that Capital Project Funding Agreements (CPFA) are not issued for Major Capital Projects until after the Business Case and all other required supporting documentation is received, reviewed, and approved for funding by the Ministry.

NOTE: The Ministry encourages school districts to pursue simplified designs for new schools or expansion of existing schools. As projects proceed to Business Case, stakeholder engagement and design phases, please ensure simplified design parameters are considered as per the attached *Simplified Designs Guidelines*.

MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS (SEP, FIP, CNCP, BEP, PEP, BUS)

Below are tables for the minor capital projects that are approved. The table identifies School Enhancement Program (SEP), Food Infrastructure Program (FIP), Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP), Building Envelope Program (BEP), Playground Equipment Program (PEP), as well as the Bus Acquisition Program (BUS), if applicable.

New projects for SEP, FIP, CNCP, BEP, PEP

Facility Name	Program Project Description	Amount Funded by Ministry	Next Steps & Timing
Rutherford Elementary	SEP - Interior Construction Upgrades	\$898,200	Proceed to design, tender & construction. To be completed by March 31, 2025.
John Barsby Community School	SEP - Interior Construction Upgrades	\$514,573	Proceed to design, tender & construction. To be completed by March 31, 2025.
Randerson Ridge Elementary	CNCP - HVAC Upgrades	\$678,000	Proceed to design, tender & construction. To be completed by March 31, 2025.

Mountain View Elementary	PEP - Accessible Playground Equipment	\$195,000	Proceed to design, tender & construction. To be completed by March 31, 2025.
Woodlands Secondary	FIP - Kitchen Equipment and Upgrade	\$35,000	Proceed to design, tender & construction. To be completed by March 31, 2025.

An Annual Programs Funding Agreement (APFA) accompanies this Capital Plan Response Letter which outlines specific Ministry and Board related obligations associated with the approved Minor Capital Projects for the 2024/25 fiscal year as listed above.

In accordance with Section 143 of the *School Act*, Boards of Education are required to adopt a single Capital Bylaw (using the Capital Bylaw Number provided at the beginning of this document) for its approved 2024/25 Five-Year Capital Plan as identified in this Capital Plan Response Letter. For additional information, please visit the Capital Bylaw website at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/capital/planning/capital-bylaws>

The Capital Bylaw and the APFA must be signed, dated, and emailed to the Ministry’s Capital Management Branch at CMB@gov.bc.ca as soon as possible. Upon receipt the Ministry will issue Certificates of Approvals as defined in the APFA.

As the 2024/25 Capital Plan process is now complete, the Capital Plan Instructions for the upcoming 2025/26 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan submission process (using the Ministry’s Capital Asset Planning System (CAPS) online platform) will be available on the Ministry’s [Capital Planning](#) webpage by April 1st, 2024.

School districts’ capital plan submission deadlines for the 2025/26 fiscal year, using the CAPS online platform, will be as follows:

- **June 30, 2024**
 - Major Capital Programs (SMP, EXP, REP, RDP, SAP)
- **July 1, 2024**
 - Major Capital Programs (BEP)
- **September 30, 2024**
 - Minor Capital Programs (SEP, CNCP, PEP, BUS)
- **October 1, 2024**
 - Minor Capital Programs (FIP)

The staggered deadlines are intended to provide the Ministry with input required to initiate planning for the next budget cycle, while enabling school districts additional time and flexibility to plan over the summer.

Additionally, the Annual Facility Grant (AFG) project requests for the 2024/25 fiscal year are to be submitted using the CAPS online platform, on or before May 31, 2024.

NOTE: It is strongly encouraged that school districts discuss the draft versions of their intended capital projects and AFG project requests with Ministry staff well in advance of submission deadlines.

As a school district with a School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC) scheme in place, please also be advised that the eligible school site requirement set out in the final resolution of the Board of Education in accordance with s. 574(5) of the *Local Government Act*, is duly accepted by the Ministry as part of the Board's approved capital plan for 2024/25.

The Board should forthwith adopt a bylaw setting the School Site Acquisition Charges for the School District, as s. 575(3) of the *Local Government Act* prescribes that a SSAC may only come into effect 60 days (inclusive of weekends and holidays) after that bylaw is adopted by a board of education. At that point, local government may commence the collection of an applicable per dwelling unit charge from residential developers on behalf of a board.

Please contact your respective Regional Director or Planning Officer as per the [Capital Management Branch Contact List](#) with any questions regarding this Capital Plan Response Letter or the Ministry's capital plan process.

Specific questions about SSAC should be directed to Regional Director [Travis Tormala](#).

Sincerely,



Damien Crowell, Executive Director
Capital Management Branch

pc: Geoff Croshaw, Acting Director, Major Capital Projects, Capital Management Branch
Michael Nyikes, Director, Minor Capital Projects, Programs and Finance, Capital Management Branch