



March 25, 2025

Ref: 23223

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

**Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD68-01**

Re: Ministry Response to the Annual Five-Year Capital Plan Submission for 2025/26

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This letter is in response to your School District's 2025/26 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan submissions for Major Capital Programs and Minor Capital Programs. This letter also contains important information regarding your upcoming 2026/27 Annual Five-Year Capital Planning submission. The following tables identify major capital projects that are supported to proceed to the next stage of development and minor capital projects that are approved for funding and can proceed to procurement.

On March 13, 2025, the Province introduced legislation that identifies country of origin requirements for all procurements. What this means is U.S. bidders must be excluded, except in certain circumstances, for all future procurements. The Ministry will have further conversations with school districts as the tariff situation evolves and commit to working closely with you to navigate this challenging situation.

**MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Major capital consists of the following program areas:

- Seismic Mitigation Program (SMP)
- Expansion Program (EXP)
- Replacement Program (REP)
- Site Acquisition Program (SAP)
- Rural District Program (RDP)

A variety of emergent issues including a significant number of school fires and a challenging fiscal environment have resulted in a limited ability to advance major capital projects. As a result, there are no new major capital projects in your School District that were supported to move forward at this time.

**Status of Projects in Development from Previous Years**

Project #	Project Name	Project Type	Comments
150397	Ladysmith Intermediate	Seismic Mitigation	Final business case is with the Ministry for funding approval decision.

150074	Ladysmith Primary	Addition	Please submit business case to Ministry as soon as possible.
154916	École North Oyster Elementary	Seismic Mitigation	Please submit business case to Ministry as soon as possible.

As a reminder, 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.

The Ministry continues to require school districts to use simplified designs for new schools and/or expansion to existing schools. As projects proceed to Business Case, stakeholder engagement and design phases, please ensure the *Simplified Design Guidelines* are used. The guidelines are attached for reference.

Please contact your [Regional Director or Planning Officer](#) with any questions regarding Major Capital projects.

### **MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS**

The table below reflects approved minor capital projects for your School District in the following program areas:

- School Enhancement Program (SEP)
- Food Infrastructure Program (FIP)
- Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP)
- Building Envelope Program (BEP)
- Playground Equipment Program (PEP)

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

Facility Name	Program Project Description	Amount Funded by Ministry
Mountain View Elementary	SEP - HVAC Upgrades	\$662,500
Wellington Secondary	SEP - Interior Construction Upgrades	\$737,500
Nanaimo District Secondary	CNCP - Electrical Upgrades	\$791,700
John Barsby Community School , Ladysmith Secondary, Nanaimo District Secondary, Wellington Secondary, Woodlands Secondary	FIP - Kitchen Equipment	\$100,000

All projects are now to proceed to design, tender and construction, and to be completed by March 31, 2026.

### **New projects for BUS**

The table below identifies Bus Acquisition Program (BUS) approved projects, with BUS funding amounts to be confirmed after school districts place their order(s) with bus vendors during the upcoming bus standing offer timeframe which runs from April 2, 2025 to June 2, 2025. Only internal combustion engine buses are currently identified, with approval and funding for electric buses (if applicable) to be identified later through an amended Capital Plan Response Letter. Please refer to the attached *School Bus Letter* for additional school bus purchasing details.

New/Existing Bus Fleet #	New/Replacement Bus Type	Amount Funded by Ministry
New	INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE - Type A2 Over 6350Kg (24-33) with 2 wheelchair space(s)	TBD
New	INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE - Type C 76 with 0 wheelchair space(s)	TBD

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 2025/26 fiscal year. Please email a signed/dated copy of the Annual Programs Funding Agreement to the Ministry at [CMB@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CMB@gov.bc.ca)

In accordance with Section 143 of the *School Act*, Boards of Education are required to adopt a single Capital Bylaw (template can be found on the Ministry [website](#)) using the Capital Bylaw Number provided at the beginning of this document, for the supported and/or approved 2025/26 Five-Year Capital Plan projects as identified in this letter. The Capital Bylaw must be adopted by your Board and uploaded onto your School District's online MyCAPS portal in order for the Ministry to issue Certificates of Approval. A step-by-step guide of this process is attached for your reference.

Please contact Branch Director [Michael Nyikes](#) with any questions regarding Minor Capital projects.

### **SCHOOL SITE ACQUISITION CHARGE**

As part of the Board's 2025/26 approved capital plan, 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 accepted by the Ministry.

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

Please contact Regional Director [Travis Tormala](#) with any questions regarding School Site Acquisition Charges.

**2026/27 ANNUAL FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN SUBMISSIONS**

Capital Plan Instructions for the 2026/27 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan submission process will be available on the Ministry’s capital planning [website](#) in early April.

School districts’ capital plan submission deadlines for the 2026/27 fiscal year are:

- **June 30, 2025**
  - Major Capital Programs (SMP, EXP, REP, RDP, SAP)
- **September 30, 2025**
  - Minor Capital Programs (SEP, CNCP, PEP, BEP, BUS)
- **October 1, 2025**
  - Minor Capital Programs (FIP)

Additionally, the Annual Facility Grant (AFG) project requests for the 2025/26 fiscal year are to be submitted using the MyCAPS portal, on or before **May 16, 2025**. The 2025/26 AFG Allocation Table will be available on the Ministry’s capital planning [website](#) in early April.

The Ministry recommends school districts discuss draft versions of their intended capital projects and Annual Facility Grant project requests with minor capital staff in advance of submission deadlines.

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.

Sincerely,



Damien Crowell, Executive Director  
Education and Child Care Capital Branch  
Ministry of Infrastructure

pc: Geoff Croshaw, Director, Major Capital Projects, Education and Child Care Capital Branch  
Michael Nyikes, Director, Minor Capital Projects, Education and Child Care Capital Branch