



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

October 3, 2017

The Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Roberson,

Re: Municipal cooperation in support of school construction projects

It was a pleasure to meet you at the recent Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention and at least touch base on the opportunities that greater cooperation between school districts and area municipalities across the province might bring in support of accelerated school construction and greater community use. I certainly see a number of possibilities where we might work together along with the Ministry of Education to ensure that the much-needed new schools or school improvement projects are completed as soon as possible.

On behalf of the BC School Trustees Association, I would like to request a meeting of representatives from your ministry and the Ministry of Education to meet with members of our board of directors to discuss how current local impediments to school construction might be alleviated. While we appreciate the desire of local municipalities to see schools built or refurbished within their boundaries, many school districts are experiencing significant delays in seeing such construction projects approved at that level. In some cases, unrealistic planning or construction expectations are also placed on school districts impeding their ability to effectively and efficiently bring projects to completion.

Beyond addressing better local cooperation to facilitate school construction projects, I believe there is a missed opportunity to do more in the way of joint venture projects with municipalities. While we can all point to a number of individual success stories around the province, a great deal more could be done in terms of allowing school sites to serve as broad-based community assets serving a range of age groups and programs.

Building more schools, or improving the safety of those that are already in place, is certainly worthwhile, but I believe we could make better overall use of these buildings if we viewed and invested in them as the hub of a community or neighbourhood.



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Thank you once again for taking the time to talk with me during the UBCM convention. I look forward to meeting with you and your ministry representatives to explore how these two important goals might be addressed in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G B Swan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Gordon Swan

President

BC School Trustees Association

cc: The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education