



July 6, 2026
Our Ref. 27653

Heather Grieve
Chair
Board of Education
School District No.73 (Kamloops – Thompson)
1383 9th Avenue
Kamloops BC V2C 3X7

Email Address: hgrieve@exc.sd73.bc.ca

Dear Chair Grieve:

Thank you for your letter of May 27, 2026, also addressed to the Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care, regarding the Batchelor Heights elementary school project. As your enquiry falls under the purview of the Ministry of Infrastructure, I am responding to the issues you have raised.

I recognize that the cancellation of the Batchelor Heights elementary school project was disappointing, and I want to extend my appreciation to the Board for its ongoing dedication to providing high-quality educational facilities in Kamloops.

As you know, the Province previously supported the School District with a crown land grant and instructions to proceed with planning work for a future Batchelor Heights Elementary School in anticipation of enrolment pressures. Analysis of the School District's updated enrolment forecasts, however, now show a decline in student enrolment in the Westsyde Zone. When compared with other areas of growth, these updated forecasts no longer support the prioritization of a new elementary school at Batchelor Heights in the Province's capital plan.

Since 2018, our government has approved \$142.3 million in funding to support two new school projects, a classroom addition project and site acquisition to create over 1,100 student seats in growing areas of Kamloops. The Province's capital plan is reassessed on an annual basis following consideration of each school district's annual Capital Plan submissions, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Kamloops – Thompson School District on its priorities.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bowinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a trailing flourish.

Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Infrastructure

cc: Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Education and Child Care