



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)

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May 27, 2026

Ministry of Infrastructure
PO Box 9021 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
BY EMAIL: INF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
BY EMAIL: ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Honourable Ministers Ma and Beare:

RE: **Batchelor Heights Elementary Major Capital Project Cancellation**

The Kamloops-Thompson Board of Education is writing to express its deep disappointment with the recent return of the district's 2026-2027 capital request for a new elementary school in Bachelor Heights, marked only as "cancelled," without explanation, rationale, or indication of future support.

While the Board recognizes that government must make difficult funding decisions, communities deserve transparency and meaningful communication when critical infrastructure requests are denied. The lack of clarity surrounding this decision leaves the district unable to provide informed responses to its community regarding the reasons this project was not supported.

More concerning, however, is the continued lack of investment in SD73, a growing district. For years, the district has managed significant enrolment pressures with limited support, relying on portables and repurposed learning spaces while students and staff face reduced access to core facilities and programming. During this time, SD73 has also navigated the total loss of one school and a major fire in another, that significantly disrupted learning for students and families. Despite these challenges, the district experienced an entire wave of student growth move through an area that urgently required a new school, yet no investment was made to address those pressures.

The Board now sees these same challenges intensify elsewhere in the district, particularly in the southwest sector of Kamloops, where secondary schools are operating well beyond capacity. These are not future concerns; they are realities affecting students every day. The district cannot wait seven to ten years for potential funding while critical needs continue to grow in the present.

The Board respectfully request further information regarding the rationale for new Batchelor Heights Elementary cancellation decision, the factors considered during the review process, and whether opportunities for reconsideration or future support may exist. Most importantly, the Board urges the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Education and Child Care to recognize and invest in the Kamloops-Thompson School District and the urgent need for timely educational infrastructure before these challenges become even more severe.

Sincerely,

Heather Grieve, Board Chair
School District No.73 (Kamloops-Thompson) Board of Education

HG/km

cc: Bobbi Plecas, Deputy Minister, Infrastructure, inf.deputyminister@gov.bc.ca
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Board of Education, School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)
Mike St. John, Superintendent/CEO, School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)
Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)
Art McDonald, Director of Facilities, School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)