



November 21, 2024

via email: [WLRS.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:WLRS.minister@gov.bc.ca)

Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
Honourable Randene Neill  
PO Box 9049, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

**Re: URGENT REQUEST – Expedite Crown Grant Application**

Dear Honourable Randene Neill:

On behalf of the Kamloops-Thompson Board of Education, I am honoured to congratulate you on your new role as the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Kamloops-Thompson Board of Education, and we are very much in urgent need of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to expedite our Crown Grant application for the Batchelor Heights Elementary School site.


Our previous correspondence with former Minister Rachna Singh and Minister Nathan Cullen includes:

- On April 19, 2023, our Director of Facilities had been informed that the Order In Council request had been sent to Victoria for processing.
- On November 20, 2023, Minister Cullen communicated with us to confirm that due to the reorganization of the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, the file would not receive a Fall Cabinet review date.
- [On December 13, 2023](#), our Board had sent a letter to Minister Cullen to ask that he prioritize our Crown Grant application.
- [On February 17, 2024](#), we had written a letter to Minister Singh to request her assistance to emphasize the importance of asking for your Ministry to expedite the Crown Grant application in order to ensure that we would be eligible for a new school to be funded. At that time, we emphasized that we desperately needed a new school in Batchelor Heights because, at that time, the Board had just approved a catchment change to manage the overflow of students in Westmount Elementary School which was at 181% capacity utilization. We displaced 90 Batchelor Heights students out of Westmount Elementary School and relocated them to two non-catchment area schools while we wait for funding approval and construction of a new school in Batchelor Heights.
- [On February 28, 2024](#), Minister Cullen communicated with us indicating that he was expediting this application.

We are now over 121% capacity in the elementary school that was at the centre of the catchment change related to needing a new school in Batchelor Heights. Until the Crown Grant application is approved, we are not eligible for funding for a much needed new elementary school in Batchelor Heights.

***Our Board urgently appeals to you for your assistance to make the processing of this Crown Grant application as an urgent priority.***

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Grieve". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "H" and a long, sweeping tail.

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

cc: Board of Trustees, Superintendent, Acting Secretary-Treasurer, Director of Facilities,  
Minister of Water, Land and Resource; Communications Director and Board Administrator.