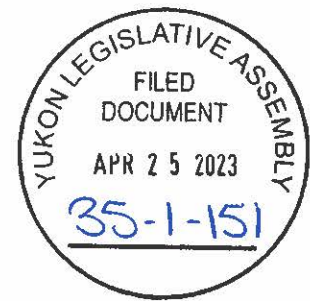


Christ the King Elementary School Council
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April 24, 2023

Honourable Ranj Pillai, Premier
Yukon Legislative Assembly
Box 2703, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6
Ranj.Pillai@gov.yk.ca



Regarding: Christ the King Elementary School Seismic Retrofit and Capital Infrastructure Investments

Dear Premier Pillai,

Christ the King Elementary School (CKES) Council extends our congratulations on your recent acclimation as the leader of the Yukon Liberal Party and swearing in as the Premier of the Yukon.

CKES Council has determined priorities for this Council's term. One critical priority is ensuring the students and faculty have a facility that is safe and adequate for their needs. CKES's safety concern is primarily driven by the results of seismic studies done by the Department of Education and the lack of any plan to address the seismic risk at CKES. The concern about CKES being adequate for the needs of faculty and staff is driven by the age of the building and the needs of students and faculty not being met in the current facility.

CKES's original construction was in 1960 and an addition was built in 1965. This puts the age of CKES at 63 years for the original construction and 58 years for the addition. The building code is based on a 50 year design service life for a building. This means that significant building code upgrading is required for CKES given its age. CKES Council recognizes many upgrades have been completed to the school and property around the school. However, those upgrades do not address any of the known serious, seismic, structural issues.

The Department of Education undertook various seismic assessments of Yukon's schools between 2010 and 2014. These assessments identified numerous High Risk areas within CKES. High Risk means that the structure will be damaged beyond repair with widespread damage and structural failure during a seismic event. Should such an event occur during school hours there could be catastrophic results resulting in the injury and death of students and faculty. CKES Council retained David Nairne + Associates (DNA) to provide an update on those seismic assessments because of our concerns and the lack of any interest from the Yukon Government's representatives in addressing the safety of students and faculty at the school. This report reinforced the building is High Risk. CKES received DNA's final report on October 20, 2022.

Going back to Yukon Government's 2015 five-year capital plan, CKES was identified as a budget item for replacement in 2019. In the 2016 five-year capital plan CKES was removed with no explanation. CKES Council has been unable to get an explanation from the Yukon Government for this change even though CKES's building condition assessment results in it being ranked as one of the highest priority schools for replacement. CKES Council can only assume that the building was scheduled for replacement in 2015 due to it being prioritized given the age and condition of the structure which would include the risk to students and faculty during a seismic event. CKES requests the Yukon Government commit to prioritizing our school in the capital plan in recognition of the building condition and risk identified.

Meeting objectives of Our Clean Future should also be a consideration as the Yukon Government looks to address the safety and day to day needs of faculty and staff. Retrofits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change are needed to address the climate emergency. It is critical to improve energy efficiency and climate resilience of CKES to align with the objectives of Our Clean Future.

Over the past several years CKES Council has tried in various ways to engage the Department of Education to improve school infrastructure in a coordinated fashion, from the Catholic Schools Building Advisory Committee, to direct engagement with Ministers and senior departmental officials. However, the communication from the department has been inconsistent and non-committal. We believe that CKES Council and the Department of Education should be working toward the same goal of addressing the severe infrastructure needs of the facility to keep students and faculty safe and meet the school's space needs. We would like to work together with the government on that.

CKES Council requests a commitment from your government to prioritize CKES for the necessary upgrades needed to provide a safe and adequate space for our students and faculty and to meet Our Clean Future objectives. To that end, CKES would like to partner with the Department of Education to complete a building assessment that will prioritize capital investments to provide our students with a safe learning space that meets student and administrative needs and reduces the building's carbon footprint. CKES Council has agreed to jointly fund this assessment with the Department of Education.

CKES Council trusts that you will recognize the importance of providing a safe and functional space for our students and staff and we look forward to partnering with the Department of Education and advancing this work.

Sincerely,
CKES Council

Cc: Honourable Jeanie McLean, Minister of Education (Jeanie.McLean@Yukon.ca)
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