

LEGISLATIVE RETURN

SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhec, Minister of Education



1. On May 8, 2017, Ms. White

asked the following oral question at page(s) 284 to 285 of *Hansard*

submitted the following written question – WQ No. _____

gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. _____

RE: School structural safety

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion related to:

_____ on _____ at page(s) 284 to 285 of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:

QUESTION: Why were the Elijah Smith and Ross River schools not previously assessed in the last two seismic evaluations?

It's interesting to note that these two schools are more recent builds than most schools in Yukon. The latest seismic evaluation of Yukon schools was completed in 2013 and the previous one was done in 2010. As I mentioned, neither the Elijah Smith or Ross River schools were included in those assessments. In fact, only eight out of 29 schools were assessed — those built between 1950 and 1961. The report made several recommendations for physical improvements to ensure their viability in case of an earthquake.

ANSWER: In 2010, the government began a School Seismic Mitigation Program. The program has four phases:

Phase 1: Initial seismic screening to identify high-risk schools (complete)

Phase 2: Detailed evaluation of the eight identified high risk schools (complete)

Phase 3: Mitigation of non-structural risks at the eight high risk schools and ensuring that all students and teachers know what to do during an earthquake (complete)

Phase 4: Develop a long term facilities plan for medium to high risk schools (in progress)

Twenty-seven (27) Yukon schools, including Elijah Smith Elementary School, were assessed in 2010 during Phase 1 (the seismic screening phase) of the School Seismic Mitigation Program. Elijah Smith School (completed in 1991) was deemed to be low risk, therefore was not included in the Phase 2 of the School Seismic Mitigation Program.

The Ross River School (completed in 2000/2001) was one of the more recently constructed schools that was not included in the 2010 seismic screening phase of the School Seismic Mitigation Program. The school has been independently assessed for permafrost issues in the Fall (freeze) and Spring (thaw) since its closure and repairs in 2015. The most recent assessment occurred on May 3, 2017. This assessment was to ensure the school's safety following the earthquakes.

June 1, 2017
Date

[Signature]
Signature