



Issue Update

STILL SOME SCHOOLS TO BE BUILT

Education Minister Christy Clark has been recently reported as stating that there would not be any funds available for building schools in the coming year. Apparently the government just can not afford to build new schools while operating existing schools, so they have chosen to focus on the existing schools.

This “freeze” on new construction is not good news, however it can at least be tempered with the reminder that there will be some construction going on thanks to previous approvals. The Ministry advises that while there were no new major capital projects or new minor addition projects approved for this year, currently in the system there is approximately \$450 million still to be spent on projects approved in previous budget years. These projects are in various stages of design or construction.

For example:

- Salmo Secondary, Kootenay Lake - \$6.7 million
- New Taylor Park Elementary, Burnaby – \$12.2 million
- New S.E. Burnaby Secondary, Burnaby - \$35 million
- Colquitz Junior Secondary, Greater Victoria - \$8.5 million
- John Stubbs Elementary, Sooke - \$7.4 million
- Anahim Lake , Williams Lake - \$.6 million

In all, the Ministry of Education lists 93 projects yet to be awarded, but approved for construction.

In addition to these projects, an “annual capital grant” has been approved for each school district. This grant takes into account the need for minor maintenance type projects, which no longer need to be approved by the Ministry, but will be decided on by each individual school district.

Anyone interested in reviewing the list of projects provided by the Ministry of Education can contact their Regional Construction Association.

LET’S GET BC BUILDING!

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