



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

1135 Prospect Street • Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 3B9 • www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca

BY EMAIL

23 October 2023

Honorable Bill Hogan
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Place 2000, 250 King Street
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5H1

Dear Minister Hogan:

On 25 May 2023, the ASD-West DEC submitted the attached Major Capital Project Priorities for 2024-25 to the Director of Facilities and Transportation of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD). At the top of the list is a request to replace the Devon Middle School located on the north side of Fredericton. The 'Devon Project' has featured on the DEC's submissions for a number of years. It was number one on our major capital project priorities list in 2022 and 2021 and featured prominently on previous submissions as well.

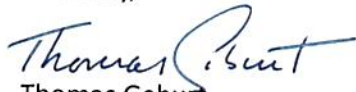
We are drawing your attention to this matter and request that this capital project receive special attention during the capital project planning and evaluation process. As you are aware, Devon Middle School, built in 1952, is experiencing significant physical deterioration. The recent failure of plumbing systems and the necessity to temporarily locate a portable toilet trailer on the school site has highlighted the poor condition of the school. Media reports have generated significant community interest and frustration with the school's condition, noting the existence of asbestos tiles, which makes repairs difficult, rodent infestations, lack of a cafeteria and sinkholes in the soccer pitch, which is the only space available to the children for outside activities.

In addition to the physical decline, the school is simply too small to accommodate the increasing population in this community on the north side of Fredericton. There are now seven portable classrooms at the school and every available space within the school, including change rooms for the undersized gymnasium, are being used as office space. The school population for the 2022-23 school year was 609 and the current population is 597 but all indications are that it will grow in the coming years given to feeder school populations. Consequently, the school is now at 88% functional capacity (76 % with the modulares), exceeding the 80% benchmark for being declared "full" and requiring replacement. It should be noted that while the EECD planning guidelines for a 'regular middle school' is between 300-700 student population, Devon can hardly be considered a 'regular sized middle school' if it requires seven portables to accommodate the student body!

The DEC is appreciative that there will be two new schools opening on the north side of Fredericton, one in 2024 and the other in 2025 however neither of these new schools will alleviate the pressures in the Devon community area. What is required and requested is an exceptional intervention, to not only move the Devon Middle School replacement project from the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) list onto the Stable Departmental Infrastructure Priorities (SDIP) list but to move it well up the SDIP to ensure that a replacement school can be realized within the next few years.

As per a decision made during the private session as part of the DEC public meeting on 19 October, the ASD-West District Education Council respectfully ask that you give serious consideration of our request to make this improvement to the learning environment of the children in the Devon community for the immediate future.

Sincerely,



Thomas Geburt

Chairperson of the District Education Council
Anglophone West School District

cc. Jill Green, Minister of Social Development, MLA Fredericton North
Ryan Donaghy, Deputy Minister, EECD
Tiffany Bastin, Assistant Deputy Minister, EECD
Robert Penney, Assistant Deputy Minister, EECD
David McTimoney, Superintendent, Anglophone West School District
Shelley Wood, Chair of the Devon Middle School Parent School Support Committee

Attachment: 1 – ASD-West Major Capital Projects Priorities for 2024-25 Submission, dated 25 May 2023



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May 25, 2023

Mr. Francois Godin
Director of Facilities and Transportation
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD)
Place 2000, P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Mr. Godin,

In accordance with section 6.1 of EECD Provincial Policy 409 – *Multi-year School Infrastructure Planning*, Anglophone West School District (ASD-W) is submitting our Multi-year Infrastructure plan along with our Major Capital Project Priorities for 2024-2025 for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development's consideration.

Major Capital Project Priorities are:

1. Replacement school for Devon Middle School
2. Woodstock High School Mid-Life Project
3. Leo Hayes High School: Shop and Skilled Trades Addition and Renovation
4. Garden Creek/ Kingsclear Community School Rationalization Study
5. Montgomery St School Replacement/ Ease enrolment pressure on Connaught St School
6. Barkers Point Elementary School Replacement School
7. Minto/Chipman Building Assessment based on the EY study that was conducted that recommended: Combining Minto High with Minto Elementary Middle School & Combine Chipman Elementary with Chipman Forest Avenue School.
8. McAdam Area Rationalization

We will send the facility status review of each school, in compliance with Section 6.1, via email by May 31st.

Sincerely,

Thomas Geburt
Chairperson of District Education Council, ASD-W

cc. Ryan Donaghy, Deputy Minister, EECD
Robert Penney, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance, EECD
Pascal Landry, Infrastructure Program Manager, EECD
David McTimoney, Superintendent of Schools, ASD-W
Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration, ASD-W