



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

June 22, 2022

The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside

Minister of Education and Child Care

PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Whiteside,

Subject: Capital Funding Announcements

At the British Columbia School Trustees Association's most recent annual general meeting, our membership, representing all 60 boards of education in B.C., passed the following resolution:

"That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care accommodate districts with shorter construction seasons by approving capital projects by February 1st of each calendar year."

The summer months can be a busy time for school districts, as they are confined to July and August to complete major capital projects. The root of this concern stems from current deadlines. While applications for the projects must be submitted to the government by the end of September, districts cannot award contracts until the government shares a release, which often occurs in March.

These deadlines often limit districts to a short window in April and May to organize work. These compacted timelines also lead to higher than necessary costs when securing contractors on tight deadlines. Additionally, boards of education have been recently concerned by deferrals of previously committed funding for seismic upgrades and new builds, adding to the stress of these timelines.

A simple solution to the problem outlined above is to approve capital projects earlier than March, allowing districts increased time and flexibility to plan and coordinate subsequent work. Our ask is that the Ministry of Education and Child Care set the first of February of each calendar year as the deadline to approve capital projects.



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Thank you for taking the time to review this request. I invite you to reach out to discuss this issue at a time that suits you so that we may plan a path forward that reduces avoidable pressures on school districts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Broady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn Broady

President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: A202215

Enclosure: Original motion rationale

CC: Christina Zacharuk, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Child Care
Chris Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Child Care
BCSTA member boards of education
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA
BCSTA Board of Directors

15. Capital Funding Announcements

Category: School Premises, Facilities, Services

Motion #:	15 : A202215	Sponsor:	Northern Interior Branch
Meeting:	AGM 2022	Action:	<i>not specified</i>
Category:		Outcome:	Letter to be drafted (April 28)
Disposition:	Carried		

Motion as Adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care accommodate districts with shorter construction seasons by approving capital projects by February 1st of each calendar year.

Motion as Presented:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care accommodate districts with shorter construction seasons by approving capital projects by February 1st of each calendar year.

Rationale:

- Many School Districts are limited to the months of July and August to complete major capital projects, a significant factor in announcing and awarding contracts.
- Although applications for capital projects are submitted by Sept. 30th, School Districts are not able to award contracts until the official government release which typically occurs the following March, leaving School Districts attempting to award July and August contracts in April and May. The request would be to recommend a portion of the funding be allocated to capital projects for specific regions with shorter construction periods prior to March, thereby giving Districts the ability to meet their capital responsibilities within the necessary timeframe.
- Short term notification to contractors is leading to school districts paying premium costs to secure quality contractors, as announcements precede requests for proposals.

This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.