

October 20, 2016

BC Groups Call on Federal Government to Direct Funding to Seismic Upgrades

“Great BC ShakeOut” Not the Fix for Public Safety Emergency in Schools

VANCOUVER — Today, while students, teachers, staff, and administrators in public schools are doing the “Great BC ShakeOut” drill and practising to “Drop! Cover! Hold on!”, the Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education (PAN) is advocating for their seismic safety and the safety of communities across BC.

In cooperation with parent and advocacy groups—Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council, First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Richmond Schools Stand United, Surrey Students Now, Comox Valley Families for Public Education, Families Against Cuts to Education BC—PAN is asking the Government of Canada to direct infrastructure funding towards urgently needed seismic upgrades in British Columbia’s public schools. Doing so will enable the federal government to ensure the health and safety of thousands of Canadians (most of them children), provide post-earthquake emergency shelters, and meet its goals of investing in social infrastructure to lay the foundation for Canada’s future.

In a prosperous country like Canada, it is unacceptable that thousands of children go to school every day in high risk schools that will collapse in even a moderate earthquake. Seismically upgrading schools is an urgent matter of public safety, and as such it needs to be prioritized and well-funded.

We now call on the Prime Minister (who is also the Minister for Youth), the Minister of Infrastructure, and the Minister of Public Safety to fulfill their responsibilities and to immediately make federal funds available to seismically upgrade BC public schools. It’s time to do right by our children and stop putting their lives at risk.

See letter, attached.

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Media Contacts

Andrea Sinclair, 604-240-9834, andreasinclair@gmail.com

Jennifer Stewart, 604-790-9929, jenniferjoanstewart@gmail.com

Federal Letter Signatories:

[Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education](#)

[Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council](#)

[First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition](#)

[Richmond Schools Stand United](#)

[Surrey Students Now](#)

[Comox Valley Families for Public Education](#)

[Families Against Cuts to Education BC](#)