

December 16, 2024

Dear Board Chairs:

Ref: 303523

We are writing to update you on the establishment of the Ministry of Infrastructure and what it will mean for your school district at this time.

On November 18, 2024, Premier David Eby appointed a new provincial cabinet that is ready to deliver on the core challenges people are facing throughout our province. Our government's top priorities include bringing down costs for families, strengthening health care, making communities safer, and growing the economy so everyone feels the benefits of helping build a more prosperous BC for future generations.

As a part of the cabinet announcement, the Ministry of Infrastructure was created. Governments worldwide are facing challenging construction markets and cost pressures on major capital projects. This new ministry is responsible for overseeing land acquisition as well as project planning, procurement, and delivery for vertical provincial capital projects such as schools, hospitals, post-secondary institutions, and other public buildings that BC communities need to continue to thrive. This does not include transportation infrastructure, which remains the purview of the Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

By assembling responsibility for vertical capital projects across the provincial government into the Ministry of Infrastructure, our provincial government is better able to improve the coordination and delivery of important community infrastructure that provincial services are delivered from, to people throughout BC.

For greater clarity, the Ministry of Infrastructure primarily deals with vertical projects requiring capital funding and will not be involved in the disbursement of any operating funding to partners. Operating funding that supports the delivery of your services will continue to come from the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

The changes being shared with you today are internal to the organization of our government ministries and do not change your role as an integral partner in the delivery of critical services. We will continue to communicate with you as we implement the new Ministry of Infrastructure. In the meantime, there should not be any interruption to how you engage with our government. Please continue reaching out to your existing contacts with any questions and/or feedback that you may have and be assured that our ministries will be working closely together to serve you well.

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We are excited by the opportunities the new ministry provides and will ensure that our ministries work closely together to share information about your needs and how best to support you. Together, we will continue to build our province so British Columbians have the opportunity to grow, thrive and prosper for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

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Lisa Beare Minister of Education and Child Care

cc: District Superintendents

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