



October 9, 2025
Our Ref. 24193

Dear School District Board Chairs:

I am writing to update you on proposed amendments to the *School Act* that were introduced in the legislature this morning.

[Bill 27, the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act \(No. 2\), 2025](#) contains amendments to the *School Act* that result in two changes to expropriation powers of boards of education.

The first change formalizes existing practice by adding the requirement for Ministerial approval prior to any board of education expropriating private property.

As ordered by the May 23, 2025 decision of the B.C. Supreme Court, the legislation also extends expropriation authority to the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF) – a power that is currently held by the other 59 boards of education.

It should be noted that expropriation is considered a tool of last resort and has only been used a handful of times in the last ten years when no other options were feasible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Assistant Deputy Minister, Jennifer Melles at Jennifer.Melles@gov.bc.ca or Deputy Minister, Bobbi Plecas at INF.Deputyminister@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Infrastructure

Cc: Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care
School District Superintendents
Bobbi Plecas, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Infrastructure
Jennifer Melles, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Infrastructure