



June 26, 2024

The Honourable Rachna Singh  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Singh,

Re: Increase for School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC)

The Langley Board of Education writes to you regarding a motion that was carried unanimously at the Board's Regular Meeting on June 18, 2024:

*"That the Langley Board of Education write a letter to the Ministry of Education and Child Care requesting an increase in the maximum limits of the School Site and Acquisition Charge."*

The Board recognizes the School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC) is the sole means by which the District can garner funds from new residential developments to help in covering the costs of acquiring new school sites to meet the needs of enrolment growth due to development.

The Board has learned that the Langley School District's current SSAC maximum does not allow the District to collect the targeted 35 per cent of the cost of the required land due to the cap on the SSAC. Based on the current landscape in real estate and a surge in land values, the District would need the SSAC cap to be four times the current maximum allowable limit to collect the targeted 35 per cent of the needed land cost. As part of the District's recently completed Long-Range Facilities Plan, data over the next ten years indicates alarming increases in enrolment of 35 per cent mainly in areas such as the Willoughby Slope and the City of Langley. With the rising cost to purchase land combined with the expected increase in student enrolment in both the Township of Langley and the City of Langley resulting from development, the Board is deeply concerned about the potential inability to provide adequate spaces and meet the educational needs of students due to a lack of school sites and the inability for development to pay for a portion of this growth.

The Langley Board of Education prioritizes meeting the educational, health, safety, and well-being needs of students. The Board's goal is to continue to work with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to acquire land to build more schools. Raising the maximum allowable limit of the SSAC is one solution to maintaining a healthy, sustainable education system in the District. The Board appreciates your attention and consideration of this request as well as all the recent funding announcements to help support capital projects.

Sincerely,

Candy Ashdown, Chair  
Langley Board of Education