



Media Release

VSB's Kitsilano Secondary Renewal on Track with Selection of Firm to Design and Build the School

Vancouver (August 30, 2013) – Today the Vancouver School Board announced the awarding of a fixed-price contract to Bouygues Building Canada to design and build the Kitsilano Secondary School Renewal (KSSR) project. The estimated project cost is \$62.2 million, which includes the requirement to incorporate the latest in seismic construction standards. The project is funded through the Ministry of Education's seismic mitigation program.

The announcement is the culmination of a lengthy process that required extensive involvement and support from the Kitsilano community, PAC, teachers, staff and other stakeholders.

"This is wonderful news for the Vancouver School Board and for the Kitsilano Secondary school community," said Patti Bacchus, Chairperson of the Vancouver School Board. "Once completed, this new secondary school will be an excellent example of how districts can combine environmentally conscious design and community integration with a true 21st century learning environment."

More than 1,500 students in grades 8-12 will benefit from the design-builder's modern designs which incorporate a 21st century learning environment and a requirement to build to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification. The building exterior will feature extensive use of glazing to bring natural light indoors to provide a healthy learning and teaching environment for students and teachers.

The 18,800 square metre, three-storey facility will include a new academic wing with specialty classrooms and program spaces designed for individualized support and collaborative group work. A new library, three gymnasiums and a state-of-the-art 350-seat theatre are also in the plans. Students will have access to an all-weather playing field and green space for learning. Not only will this new school serve students, it will serve Kitsilano residents as well through the approximately 2,500 square metre on-site Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC).

"Kitsilano Secondary School is one of a number of seismic school projects underway in Vancouver and the awarding of this contract is an important milestone," said Education Minister Peter Fassbender. "We look forward to continuing to work with the Vancouver School Board on other seismic upgrades to ensure that schools are safe and sound for all students."

Ultimately, the selection committee felt that the successful proponent team put together a submission that best addressed a variety of factors including the educational quality of the proposal, architectural features, operational and maintenance concerns, community interface and heritage.

Design-build activities will get underway this fall and work will be carried out in phases on the existing site. A key element of the project will be the preservation of the main historical facade that dates back to 1927. The school will be completed in time for the start of the September 2017 school year.

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Quick Facts:

- Overall, since 2001, the Province of British Columbia has spent more than \$2.5 billion to complete capital projects including 99 new and replacement schools, 151 additions, 27 renovations and 26 site acquisitions throughout BC. All new and replacement schools have been constructed to meet the latest seismic standards.
- During this period, the Province has committed more than \$4.1 billion on school capital and maintenance projects throughout British Columbia.
- To date, through the Province's Seismic Mitigation Program, 20 high-risk schools have been upgraded or replaced, four are proceeding to construction and 25 more have been supported and will move forward in the near future in the Vancouver school district.