



April 20, 2012

Ref: 153078

Peg Orcherton, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
556 Boleskine Road
Victoria BC V8Z 1E8

Dear Peg Orcherton:

Thank you for your letter dated February 29, 2012, requesting additional funding for school playgrounds.

Government is pleased to be able to provide \$8 million in capital funding over two years to address the playground equipment needs of elementary students across BC. The \$8 million program announced by the Premier in September 2011 is not only for the reimbursement of PACs for their 2011 playground equipment purchases, but also includes funding for new adventure-style playground equipment at schools where elementary students have no access to playground equipment as well as funding to upgrade, repair and replace existing equipment. Eligibility for these various types of funding is based on information provided by school districts to the Ministry in the summer of last year. The allocation of the remaining funds in 2012/13 to upgrade, repair or replace existing playground equipment will be directed province-wide to school priorities identified by all school districts.

While the Ministry appreciates the Greater Victoria Board of Education's request regarding PAC reimbursements prior to January 2011 and future playground structures, at this time, there is no further capital funding available under this initiative.

As you may be aware, PACs will continue to receive grants through the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, which may be used towards the purchase of playground equipment.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write and thank you for your ongoing hard work on behalf of students in Greater Victoria.

Yours truly,

George Abbott
Minister

pc: John Gaipman, Superintendent
George Ambeault, Secretary-Treasurer