



Greater
VICTORIA
School District

School District No. 61 Catchment Boundary *Review*

February 2019



One *Learning* Community

 www.sd61.bc.ca f  



Greater
VICTORIA
School District

School District No. 61

Catchment Boundary Review



Introduction

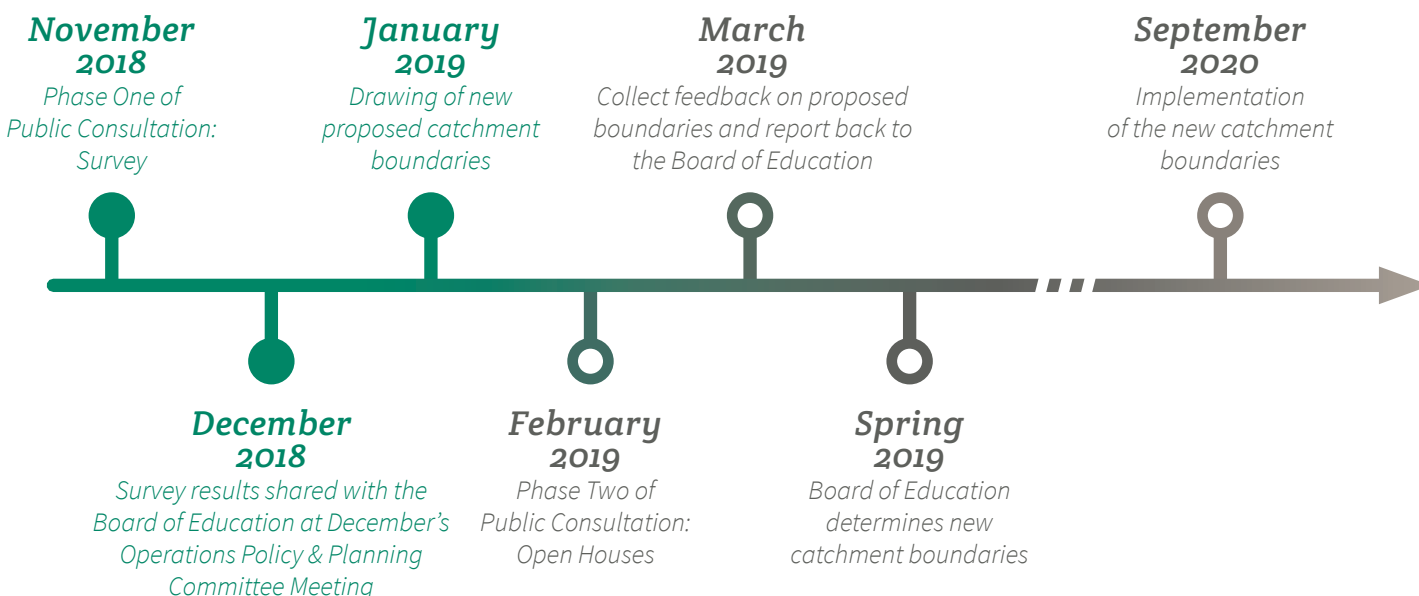
The Greater Victoria School District is reviewing catchment boundaries due to increasing student enrolment and limited space in some of its schools. In the Fall of 2018, the District started collecting input from the public to help inform the process of reconsidering school boundaries.

The School District last reviewed catchment boundaries approximately 20 years ago. Since then, there has been considerable growth in the Greater Victoria region and a significant increase in the District's student population. In the past four years, the District has seen nearly 1,000 additional students register in its schools. Some schools are full and long-term projections indicate a steady increase in the student population over the next 10 years.

The District is proposing school boundary changes to alleviate capacity constraints in its facilities and balance enrolment across the entire District to prepare for future enrolment pressures. As the District plans ahead for the future, it must reconsider school catchment boundaries to ensure there is adequate space in each school to provide the most optimal learning environments for all of its students.

As part of the review, the District is committed to engaging with the public to help inform the Board of Education's decision-making. The catchment boundary review has included and continues to include opportunities for members of the public to provide input. In November, the District heard from more than 5,100 community members through the Catchment Boundary Review Survey. The feedback collected helped to inform the District's guiding considerations, as well as, highlight important factors for families and specific neighbourhood considerations. As the District moves forward with the review, it is now looking for input on the new proposed catchment boundaries.

Where Are We in the Process?





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Important Considerations

The District has to consider many factors when reviewing school boundaries. Important considerations include but are not limited to:



*Capacity of
Schools*



*Age of Current
Infrastructure*



*Seismic
Program*



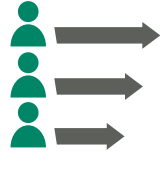
*Future Housing
Starts*



Transportation



*Safe Routes
to School*



*Student Enrolment
Priorities*



*Enrolment
Projections*



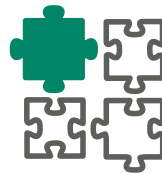
*Current Student
Enrolment*



*Student
Transfers*



Staffing



*Programs of Choice
(French Immersion,
Sports Academies, etc.)*



*Schools of Choice
(Cloverdale,
South Park)*

*Student enrolment projections available at: www.sd61.bc.ca/catchment-boundary-review

Community Engagement

The District conducted a public survey in November 2018 to learn more about the specific needs or concerns of families and students. The District heard from more than 5,100 participants, which included students and parents and guardians of current and future students.



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What We Heard

Some of the themes that were evident throughout the survey:

- The importance of **students being able to attend their neighbourhood school**. A portion of the comments expressed the benefits of attending the school in closest proximity to the family's home. The benefits shared included choosing active travel alternatives such as biking and walking to and from school, reducing traffic congestion and environmental considerations.
- The importance of **keeping siblings and families together**. Specific mentions of keeping families in the same schools together until students transition out to the next school level. As well, participants expressed how students should be able to continue on their original school pathway when making school transitions, mentioning that current boundaries should be grandparented to help with the transition.
- The importance of **keeping school cohorts together**. Participants shared they would prefer to have cohorts continue together through school transitions. There were concerns raised about how dual track programs split up students in the transition from middle to secondary. In addition, there were some comments about better defining the difference between English and French catchment boundaries.
- **Community-based schools**. Participants also shared how **schools develop a sense of community** and it is important to foster these social connections by having students continue together in school transitions.
- Catchment **boundaries should not split up streets, cul-de-sacs, housing complexes or subdivisions**.
- **Limiting travel distance to school**. There were many comments about the benefits of being within walking distance from a school. It was also noted that the walking distance for elementary students is different from those in secondary grade levels.
- **Safety was expressed as a top priority**. There were suggestions on several occasions to partner with the Capital Regional District and municipalities to create the safest travel routes for students. The feedback included the following suggestions: **improved crosswalks and sidewalks, crossing guards, better lit crosswalks and pathways**.
- **More transportation options**. Participants shared that they would like more transportation options such as school busing and accessible bike lanes and pathways on their route to school. For older students, catchments should have easy access to public transportation.
- **No catchment should have students traveling across highways**, such as the Trans-Canada Highway.
- While current student enrolment priorities place emphasis on catchment students, there were comments about **limiting student transfers** to ensure there was space for future catchment students.
- **A desire for more access to French Immersion programming**. There were also concerns about programs of choice not being equitable. There was a theme of how access to special **programming should be equitable**.
- **Access to before and after school care**. Many families stated they travel into the city for work and expressed a desire for more child care near the school, specifically at the elementary level.
- **Reopening schools** to accommodate student growth.
- Requests to **minimize change**. Desire to keep portables on school sites if that meant no changes to the current school.



For the full survey results please visit: www.sd61.bc.ca/catchment-boundary-review



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Guiding Considerations

The District's intention in creating new catchment boundaries is to reduce capacity restraints at current schools and to prepare for future growth while minimizing the impact that these changes will have on students and their families. The District must also balance and accommodate the needs of members of our One Learning Community, which includes schools and their staff.

There were many guiding considerations when informing the proposed catchment boundaries. Many of the guiding considerations stem directly from the feedback that was provided to the District in the survey during Phase One of the Consultation Process. All input from the survey was shared with the Board of Education and considered before the drawing of new proposed school boundaries.

Some of the guiding considerations for the proposed catchment changes include:

- *Limiting walk distances to and from school*
- *Ensuring safe active travel routes within catchment areas*
- *Utilizing facilities currently available to the District*
- *Immediately alleviating enrolment pressures in Victoria's central corridor*
- *Providing space to accommodate future growth*
- *Allowing S.J. Willis to be utilized as a school when another school is being seismically upgraded*
- *Aligning boundaries with historical transfer demands*
- *Keeping "Families of Schools" in alignment with school catchment pathways in efforts to keep as many cohorts together during school level transitions*
- *Maintaining current grade configurations at all schools*
- *Addressing French Immersion access*
- *Minimizing the need to build further learning studios or move existing portables*
- *Keeping Secondary Programs of Choice at their current sites*
- *Limiting the amount of change for schools, parents and community. Proposed changes to require no change for approximately half of the schools*
- *Continuing to provide the opportunity for choice through student transfers where space permits, particularly at the secondary level*
- *Allowing students to complete their studies at their current school until the next school level transition*





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Overview of Proposed Changes

Introduction of three new elementary catchment boundaries (South Park, Cloverdale, Victor) to address population density in the core area of Victoria and Southern Saanich.



The District would no longer offer Elementary Schools/Programs of Choice.

The Quadra Elementary catchment would be reduced through the creation of a Cloverdale boundary.



Victor School would open as an elementary catchment school. We currently anticipate that the school will start by phasing in Kindergarten and Grade One students. Some of the current student population will transition into a new purpose built location.



The southern portion of Torquay Elementary catchment would become part of the Hillcrest catchment.



Reopening of Richmond Elementary as a middle school South Campus for Lansdowne. The intention is for Richmond to serve the Grade Six cohort.



The Thetis Vale area of View Royal would become part of the Eagle View catchment.



The James Bay Elementary and Sir James Douglas catchments would be reduced through the creation of a South Park catchment for the James Bay and Beacon Hill area, and portions of Victoria's downtown core.



The current Oaklands Elementary boundary would be reduced. The former portion is proposed to become the new Victor School catchment.



George Jay's catchment would become smaller with the introduction of the Victor and South Park catchments and changes to the Quadra catchment.



Revisions to school catchment pathways:



- » English Doncaster students would transition to Mt. Douglas.
- » Students at Oaklands and Victor would become a part of the Oak Bay Family of Schools.
- » Rogers Elementary students would transition to Glanford Middle then continue to Reynolds Secondary.
- » South Park would transition students to Central Middle then Vic High.
- » Cloverdale would transition students to Cedar Hill then Reynolds Secondary.
- » French Immersion Margaret Jenkins students would transition into Lansdowne then Oak Bay High.
- » French Immersion Quadra students would transition into Lansdowne then Vic High.

*Please note that some proposed changes may require additional consultation at specific schools in the future.

The proposed catchment boundaries would be implemented in 2020 and will be in alignment with the District's student enrolment priorities.



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Enrolling In New Proposed Catchments

The District understands the importance of keeping siblings together at their neighbourhood school. In the event a family's catchment changes while a student is enrolled and a sibling is still waiting to register, there will be three options available to families:



1

The student enrolled can stay in their current school until the next school level transition (elementary to middle, middle to secondary);

2

If a student is enrolled in a school where the catchment boundary changes, then the student can apply for a transfer to their new catchment school;

3

A new incoming student can apply for a transfer to attend the same school their older sibling(s) attends and would receive a non-catchment sibling priority. The District will give special attention to sibling transfer requests and will facilitate these requests as space permits.

Students that are currently enrolled will be allowed to remain in their currently assigned schools until the next school level transition. New student registrations in 2020 would need to register at their new catchment school. The District's current student enrolment priorities will continue to apply to all registrations.

The District prioritizes catchment students registering at their catchment school and limits the number of student transfers to ensure that there is enough space available for students who reside in the catchment. The District will continue to facilitate transfers where it determines there is space available at the requested school.

For student enrolment priorities visit:

www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/registration/student-enrolment-priorities/

Proposed School Catchment Pathways

Proposed English Program Catchment Pathways

Esquimalt Family of Schools					
Elementary School		Designated Middle School		Designated Secondary School	
Macaulay	○	→	Rockheights	○	→ Esquimalt High
Victoria West	○				
Craigflower	○	→	Shoreline	○	
View Royal	○				



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Proposed English Program Catchment Pathways, continued...

Lambrick Park Family of Schools

Elementary School		Designated Middle School		Designated Secondary School
Hillcrest	○	Gordon Head	○	Lambrick Park Secondary
Torquay	○			

Mount Douglas Family of Schools

Elementary School		Designated Middle School		Designated Secondary School
Campus View	○	Arbutus	○	Mount Douglas Secondary
Frank Hobbs	○			
NEW Doncaster	○	Cedar Hill	○	

Oak Bay Family of Schools

Elementary School			Designated Middle School		Designated Secondary School	
	Margaret Jenkins	○	→	Monterey	○	→ Oak Bay High
	Willows	○				
NEW	Oaklands	○	→	Lansdowne	○	
NEW	Victor	○				

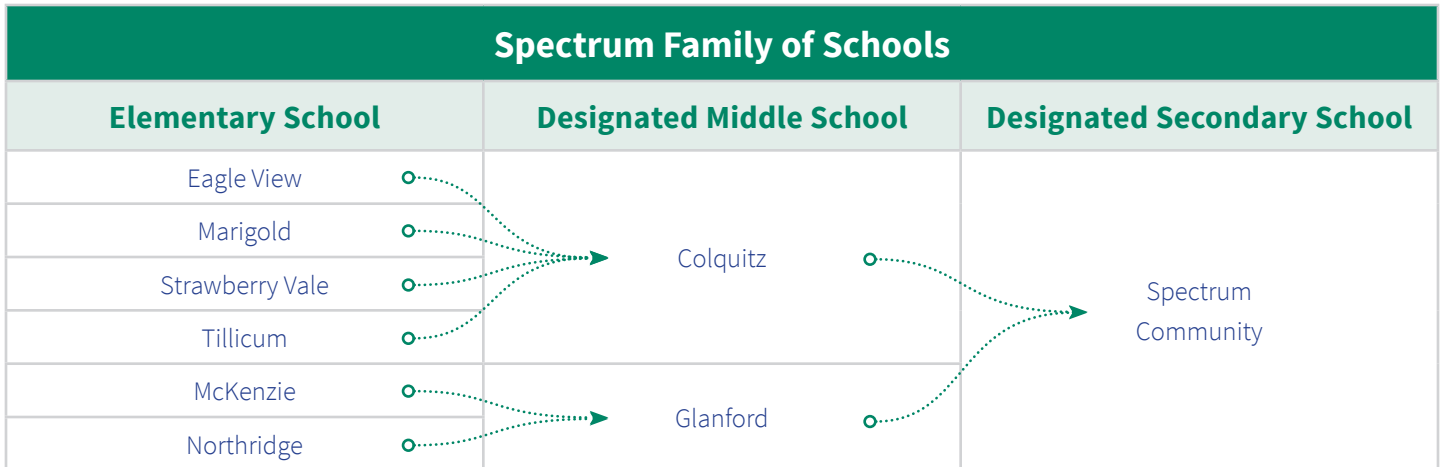
Reynolds Family of Schools

Elementary School			Designated Middle School		Designated Secondary School	
	Quadra	○	→	Lansdowne	○	Reynolds Secondary
	Braefoot	○				
NEW	Cloverdale	○	→	Cedar Hill	○	
	Lake Hill	○				
NEW	Rogers	○	→	Glanford	○	



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Proposed English Program Catchment Pathways, continued...





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French Immersion

The District will continue to review the Program of Choice - French Immersion on an annual basis to maximize the number of available seats that the program can offer parents and students.

The District's Early French Immersion Program continues to be in a growth phase with new incoming cohorts at George Jay Elementary. The proposed changes connected to the boundary review are school catchment pathway changes to ensure program viability in future years.

The proposed changes to French Immersion catchment pathways are reflected below.

Proposed Early French Immersion Program Catchment Pathways (Kindergarten or Grade 1 Entry)

Elementary School		Designated Middle School		Designated Secondary School
Macaulay	○	Shoreline	○	Esquimalt High
Marigold	○			
NEW Margaret Jenkins	○	Lansdowne	○	Oak Bay High
Willows	○			
Campus View	○	Arbutus	○	Reynolds Secondary
Doncaster	○	Cedar Hill	○	
George Jay	○	Central	○	Victoria High
Sir James Douglas	○			
NEW Quadra	○	Lansdowne	○	

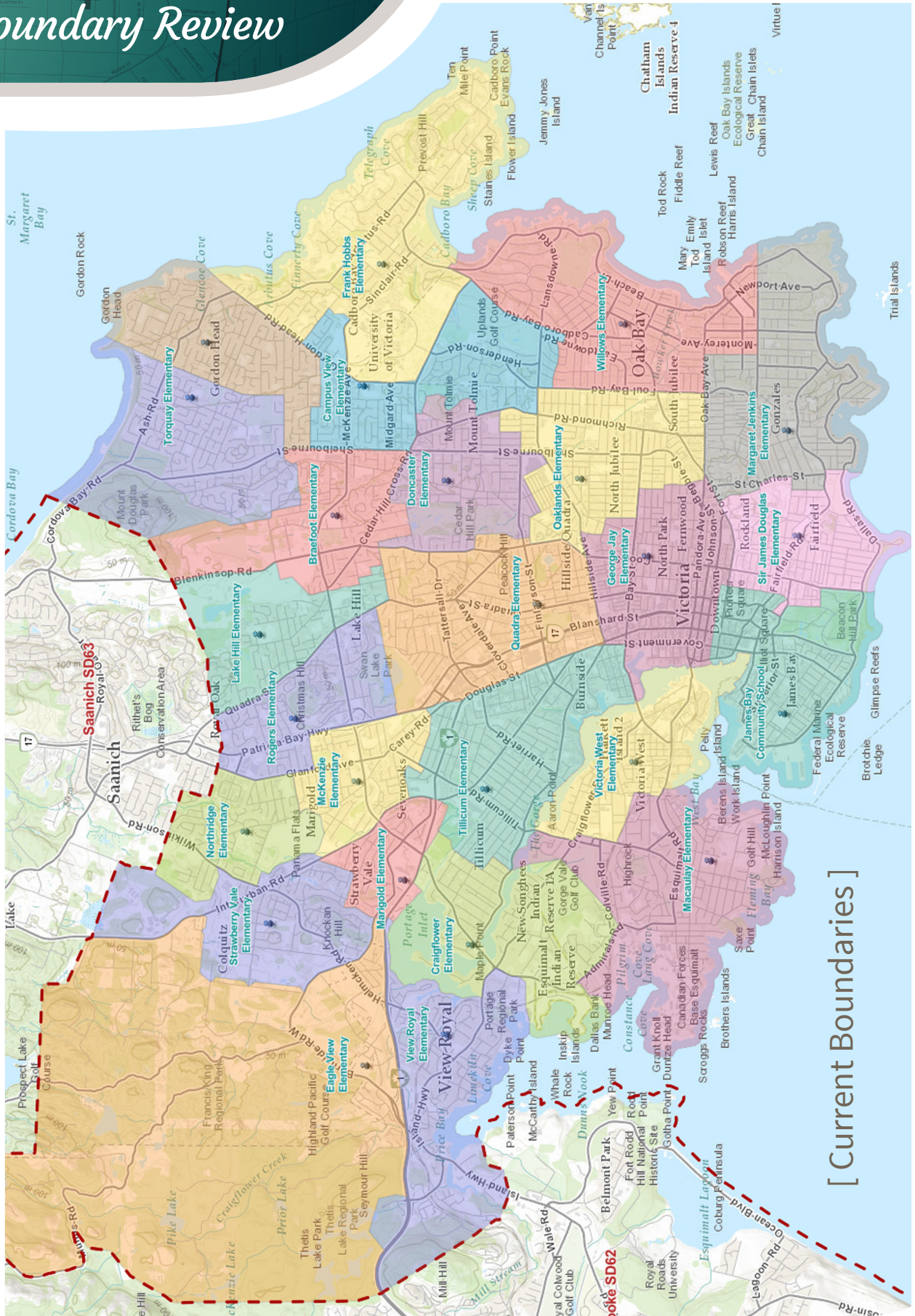
Late French Immersion is a third entry point into French Immersion (Kindergarten and Grade One being the first two) that the District offers. It is a District Program of Choice that is reviewed annually.



SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

Catchment Boundary Maps - Elementary Schools - CURRENT

Access all interactive catchment boundary maps at www.sd61.bc.ca/schools/school-catchment-boundaries/



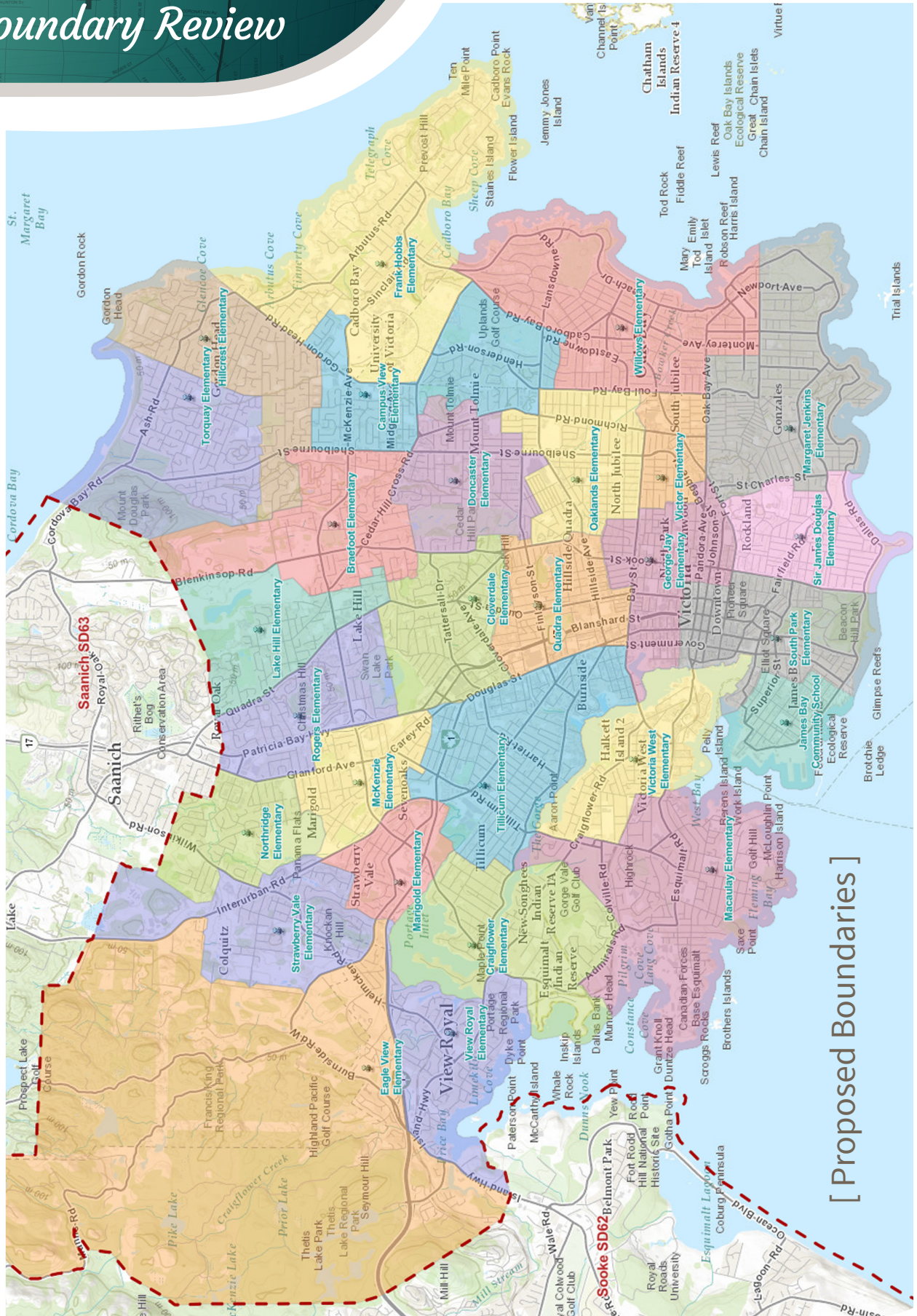
[Current Boundaries]



SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

Catchment Boundary Maps - Elementary Schools - PROPOSED

Access all interactive catchment boundary maps at www.sd61.bc.ca/schools/school-catchment-boundaries/



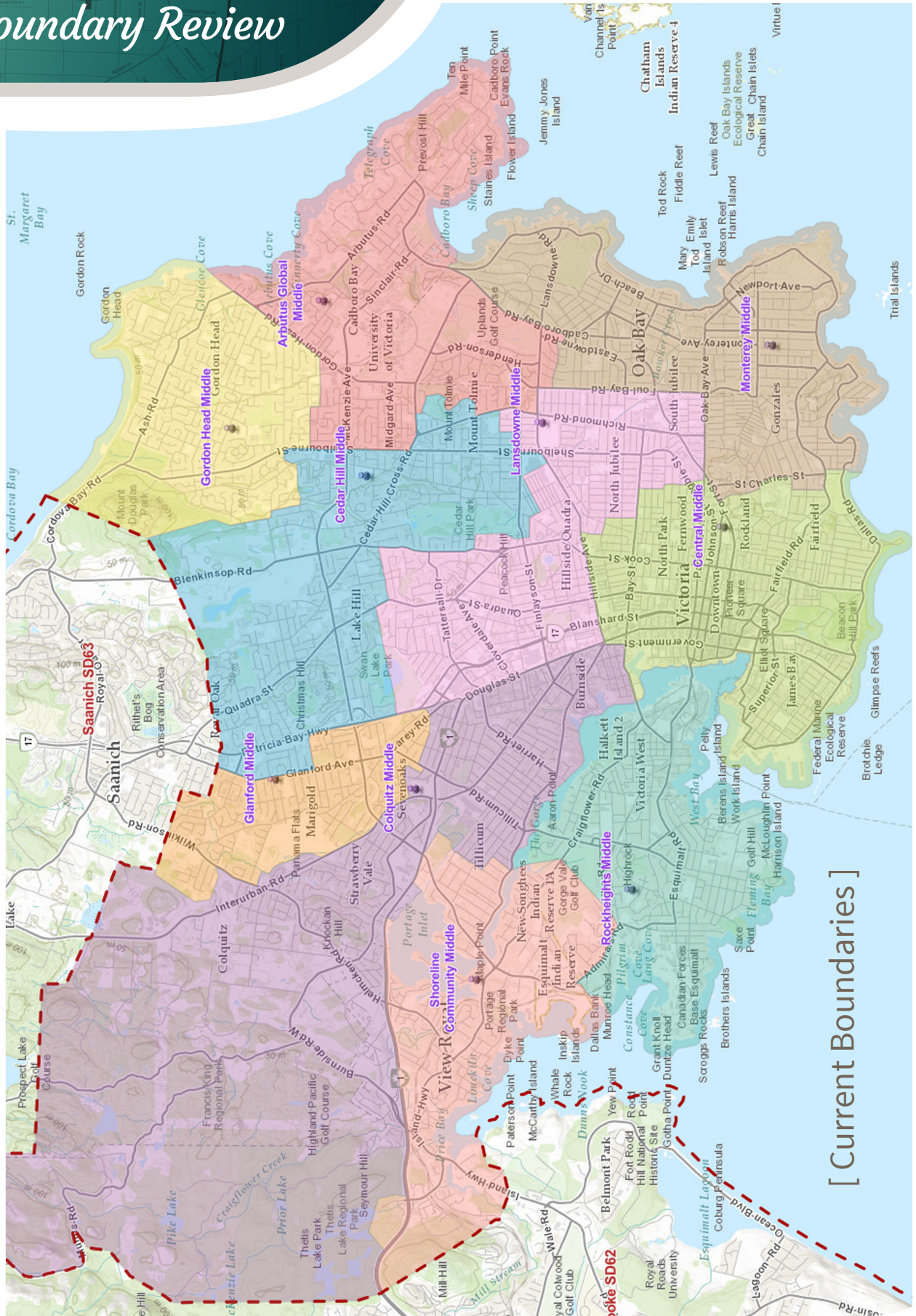
[Proposed Boundaries]



SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

Catchment Boundary Maps - Middle Schools - CURRENT

Access all interactive catchment boundary maps at www.sd61.bc.ca/schools/school-catchment-boundaries/



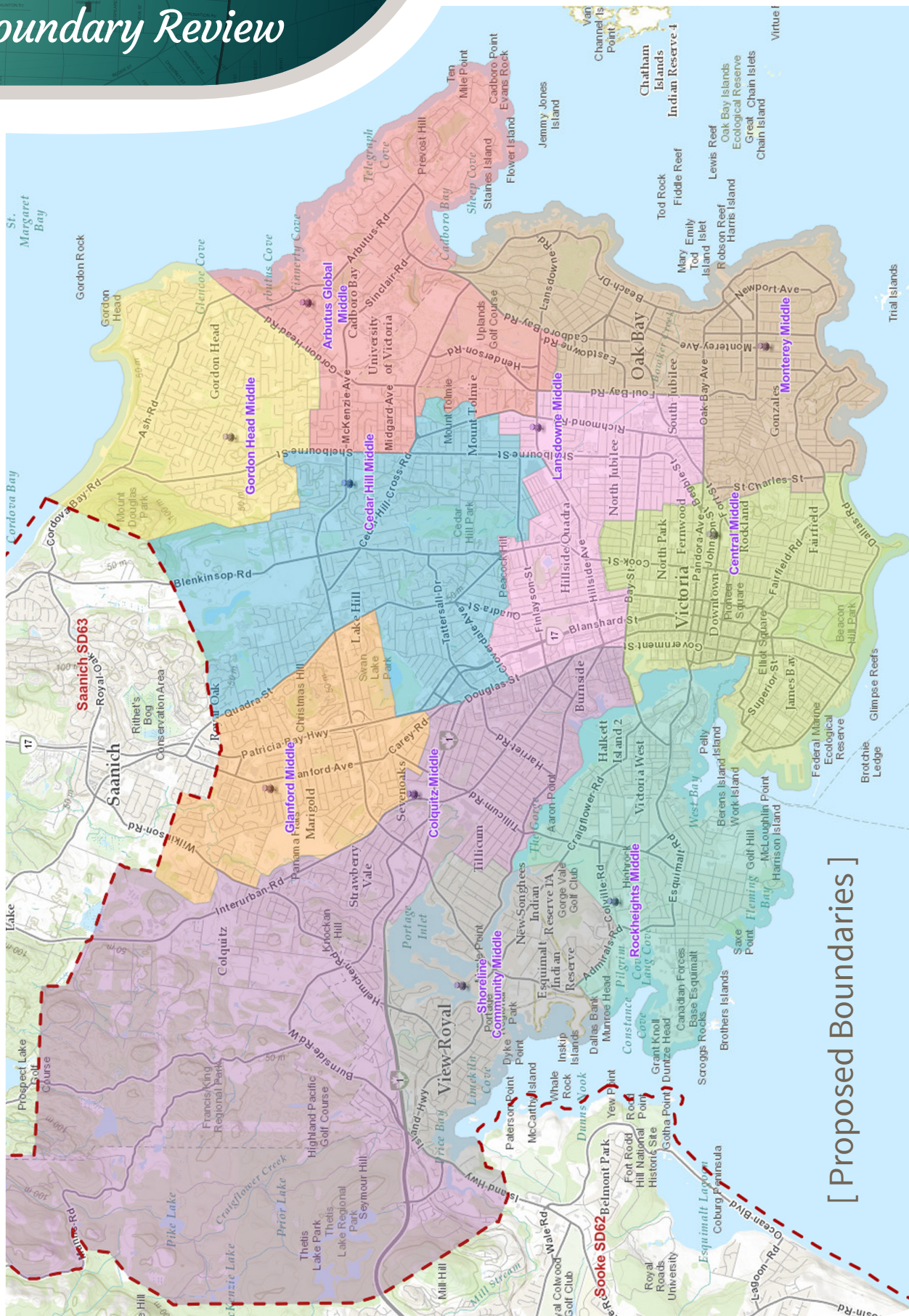
[Current Boundaries]



SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

Catchment Boundary Maps - Middle Schools - PROPOSED

Access all interactive catchment boundary maps at www.sd61.bc.ca/schools/school-catchment-boundaries/



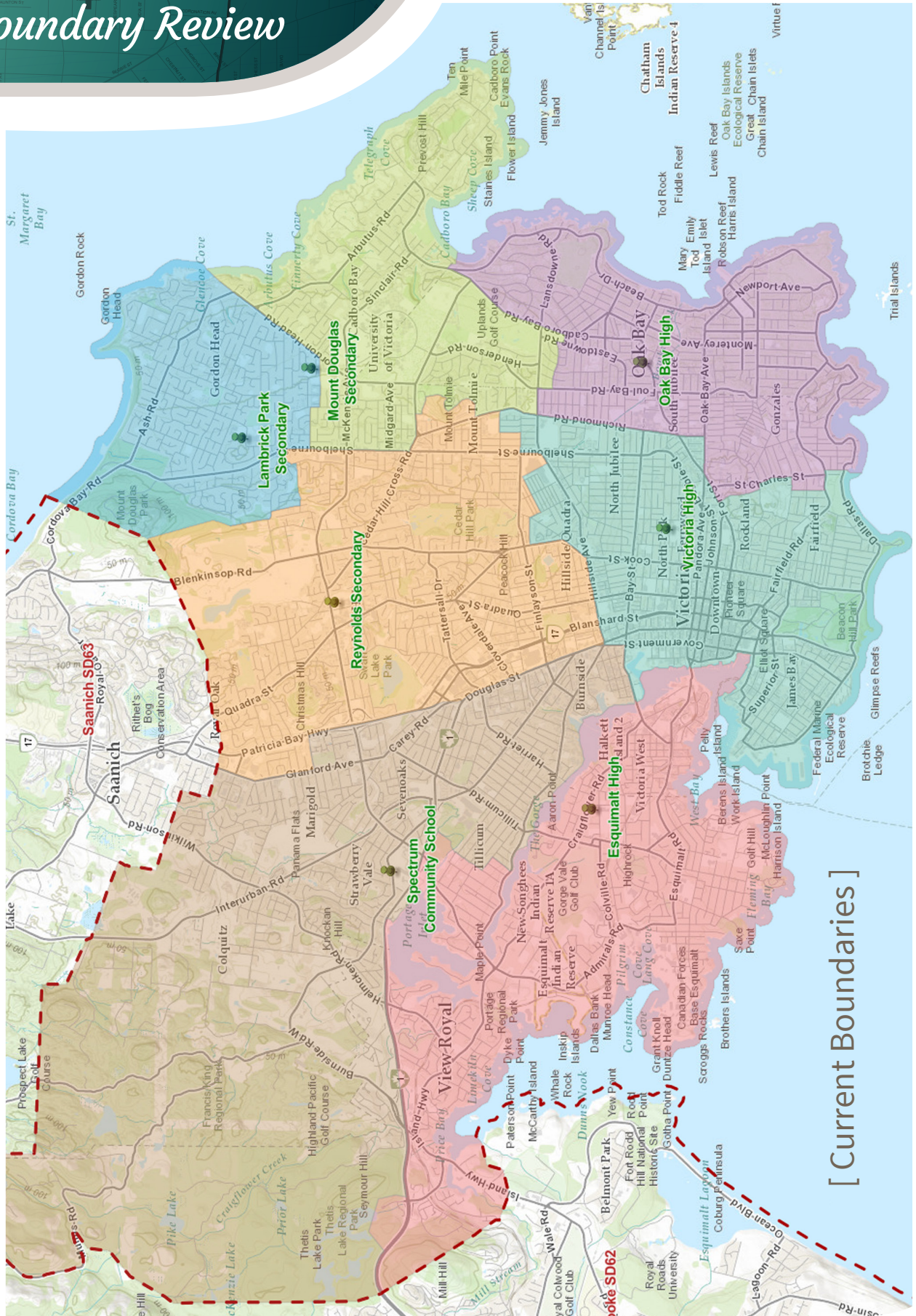
[Proposed Boundaries]



SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

Catchment Boundary Maps - Secondary Schools - CURRENT

Access all interactive catchment boundary maps at www.sd61.bc.ca/schools/school-catchment-boundaries/



[Current Boundaries]



SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

Catchment Boundary Maps - Secondary Schools - PROPOSED

Access all interactive catchment boundary maps at www.sd61.bc.ca/schools/school-catchment-boundaries/





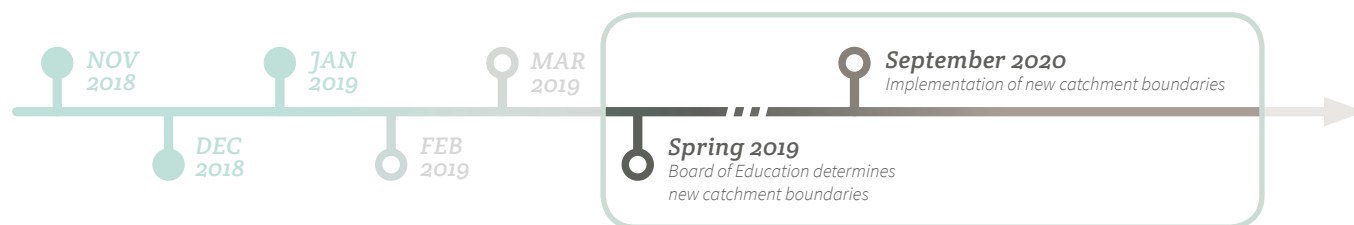
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Open Houses

Open House #1	Open House #2	Open House #3
Wednesday, February 6th, 2019 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Spectrum Community Secondary (in Gymnasium B)	Wednesday, February 13th, 2019 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Lansdowne (in the Gymnasium)	Saturday, February 16th, 2019 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Victoria High (in Andrews Gymnasium)

Next Steps

All input collected at the Open Houses will be presented to the Board of Education in the Spring. The Board of Education will make a determination of the next steps in the Spring of 2019. The catchment boundary changes will be in effect for September 2020. Following the boundaries being set by the Board of Education, The District will continue to consult with BC Transit about additional options for student transportation while collaborating with municipalities to ensure that all of its schools have long-term viability. The District will also continue to implement its Facilities Plan to ensure equitable access to amenities for all of its schools across the District.



Contact Us

For more information about the proposed boundaries and detailed interactive catchment maps, please visit www.sd61.bc.ca/schools/school-catchment-boundaries/

To provide feedback or ask any questions on the proposed changes, email: boundaryreviewteam@sd61.bc.ca

All input must be submitted by 3 p.m. on Friday, February 22, 2019 to be considered by the Board of Education.

Greater Victoria School District No. 61

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SD61 Catchment Boundary Review



*Don't forget to leave
your feedback!*

Bring this comment form to the open house and share your thoughts.
Please hand in the form before you leave.

What do you think about the proposed boundaries?

What are some other neighbourhood-specific considerations?

Any other comments?