



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND)

7811 Granville Avenue
Richmond, BC
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PRESS RELEASE

On August 27, 2009 the Ministry of Education announced that they would not be providing the 2009/10 AFG (Annual Facilities Grant). The Board of Education, Richmond, is deeply concerned with the impact this shortfall will have in the district, on student learning, and staff. While we have written the Minister of Education we also believe the community of Richmond needs to know how this will impact public education in Richmond.

The Board has been receiving funding for over two decades on a yearly basis for the repair and maintenance of Board-owned facilities. This anticipated funding, \$4 million for the 2009/10 school year, is intended to be provided in the spring. This year it was delayed without explanation and then summarily cancelled in its entirety a week before the start of school.

As a result tender bids that were received and accepted at a fixed price for work to be done to numerous Board-owned facilities have now been cancelled. Planned roofing work to facilities over the summer months when schools are not in session did not occur.

In addition, emergent issues have arisen during the summer where funds from the AFG would normally be used. Educational programs and services will now have to be reduced in order for funds to be made available to cover these costs. Ultimately the lack of AFG funds and the need to fund related costs from the Board's operating budget will have a direct impact on programs and services for students.