



**BUILDING
SCHOOLS**

TOGETHER



BUILDING MORE SCHOOLS IN B.C.

B.C. is booming. In the past two years, 250,000 new people have moved to the province. This growth is placing pressure on many communities as more people choose to make B.C. their home.

Working with First Nations, school districts and municipalities, we are creating a path forward. With the Province's \$3.4 billion in designated funding over the next three years, school districts have an opportunity to build and improve schools

that help support CleanBC climate targets, can manage extreme weather events, and address the needs of local communities with built-in services, such as child care, while still delivering quality education for all B.C. students.

Together, we are building modern, sustainable schools that continue to offer the outstanding K-12 education that B.C. is known for around the world.

"The provincial government, municipalities and school boards all have a role to play in planning communities that provide students with modernized learning environments that make sense for the world we live in today."

— Honourable Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care



WHAT IS THE B.C. GOVERNMENT DOING TO HELP?

Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care

1

Shortened the business case for major school projects by one year

Given the rapid speed of population growth and increased student enrolment, the government has acted quickly to shorten project timelines by allowing the Ministry of Education and Child Care to approve more business cases faster. This allows school districts to deliver new classroom spaces sooner.

2

Acquiring urgently needed land for schools

Since September 2017, the Province has announced 24,000 new student spaces and 35,000 seismically safer seats with a record \$3.9 billion in funding.

The B.C. government remains committed in playing a proactive role in planning by acquiring school sites early so better options for school locations are available and more cost-effective for everyone.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has 99 major capital projects in progress as of June 2023, including 44 expansion projects in high-growth communities.



3

Project offices for growing school districts

With local expertise of the labour market, permitting and municipal government process, school districts bring together teams of professionals to oversee the planning, design and construction of new schools, additions and other improvements.

Project offices further help manage multiple capital projects at a time, which results in time-saving efficiencies, especially in fast growing school districts.



“School trustees are elected to represent the interests of B.C. students. We are proud to be advocates for our communities and proactive problem-solvers.”

— Carolyn Broady, president of the BC School Trustees Association



WORKING TOGETHER

– FINDING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER

4

Collaborative planning between municipalities and school districts

When school districts and elected school boards build stronger relationships with their local municipality, there are opportunities for cost sharing and community planning that better serve everyone.

Stellar sports fields were just one of the benefits the Langley School District gained by building a solution-oriented relationship with the Township of Langley. As part of their strategic planning, developers are also required to set aside an elementary and park site if development in a specific area requires a new school.

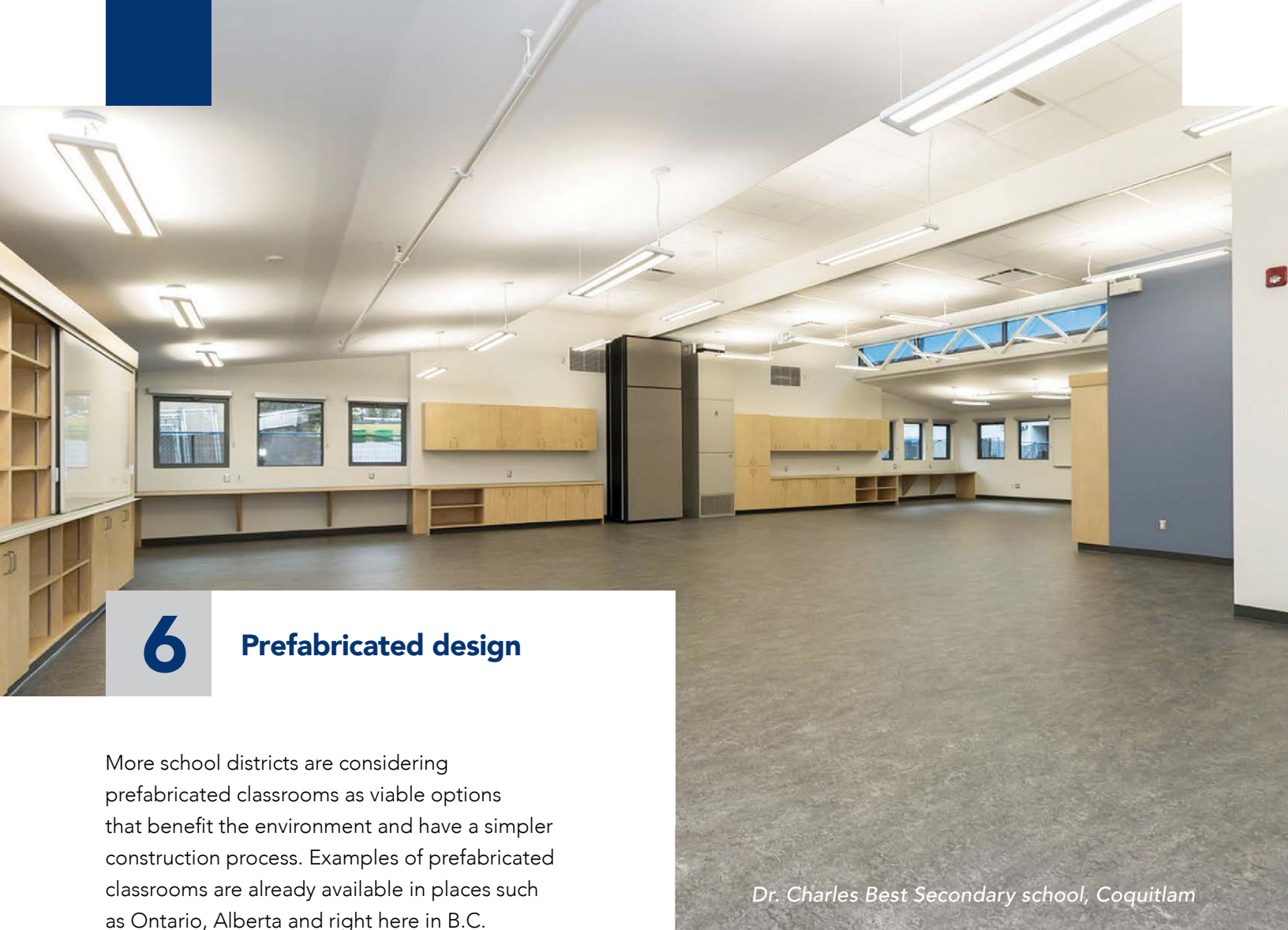
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Simple, repeatable designs

The Ministry of Education and Child Care is keen to support school districts that use simple, repeatable designs to achieve time and cost savings while still delivering modern, bright classrooms that are optimal for learning.

There are many examples of school districts leveraging this practice on both large-and small-scale projects to deliver classrooms sooner. Interested school districts can reach out to their ministry contact to discuss further.

“Our relationship with the Township is strong, healthy and mutually beneficial and has taken time to build.” — Candy Ashdown, Langley School Board Chair



6

Prefabricated design

More school districts are considering prefabricated classrooms as viable options that benefit the environment and have a simpler construction process. Examples of prefabricated classrooms are already available in places such as Ontario, Alberta and right here in B.C.

With high population growth and rapid enrolment in some areas of the province, prefabricated design models may be well-suited for school districts that require faster construction timelines to increase student spaces.

Dr. Charles Best Secondary school, Coquitlam

Dr. Charles Best Addition

The 150-seat addition built onto École Dr. Charles Best Secondary school in Coquitlam School District is a cost-effective prefabricated model.

Material was designed and manufactured off site, which allowed rapid assembly at the school.

The addition can be easily replicated for use on other sites, which provides flexibility for more student space in the future.



< The Surrey School District receiving a new welcome post carved by Coast Salish artists



Coal Harbour (2024), Vancouver

7

The urban school

Density is driving the need to develop more schools in areas of anticipated high population density along key transit corridors.

The urban school model can be leveraged in different communities throughout B.C. as a means of effectively providing services that families also need outside the classroom.

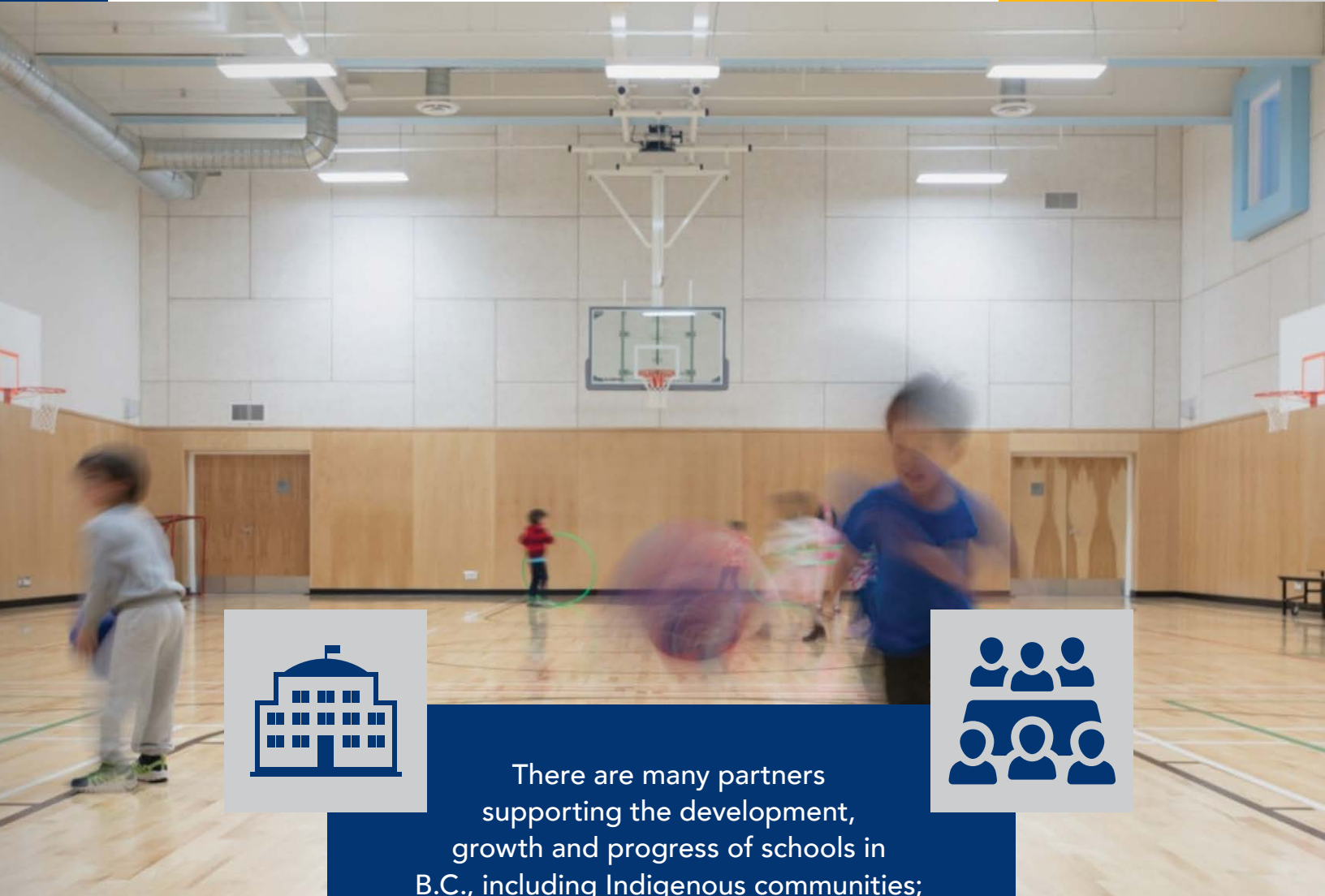
Smart planning in denser areas is crucial to accommodating and adapting to the population growth and demographic changes B.C. is experiencing.

Coal Harbour in downtown Vancouver

Slated to open for students in 2024/2025, the new highrise, multi-use building will be connected to the existing Coal Harbour Community Centre as well as affordable housing and child care spaces.

With capacity for 340 students, the building is targeting ambitious sustainability goals including Passive House and LEED Gold certification and Zero Carbon building standards. The design is multi-functional and truly integrates built-in services for the broader community.

THE PROVINCE plays a key role in funding expansions, improvements and building new schools for local delivery by the school district.



There are many partners supporting the development, growth and progress of schools in B.C., including Indigenous communities; elected school boards; school districts; municipalities and many other organizations.

Together we are building classrooms with students' success and well-being at the centre.

