



**New
Westminster
Schools**

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About the Project

In June 2016, the Province of B.C. announced funding for the replacement of New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS). The \$106.5 million project will be the largest school investment in B.C. history.

Anticipated to open in late 2019, with construction starting in 2017, the new NWSS will accommodate 1,900 grade 9 to 12 students. The new school will provide a state-of-the-art learning environment. It will be designed to optimize the use of flexible learning spaces to maximize collaboration and active learning; this will include technology that enriches the learning process, multi-purpose spaces and modern shops, as well as contemporary fine and performing arts spaces. It will also meet today's standards for modern learning, safety and accessibility, and incorporate the latest sustainable energy and waste management systems.

Built in 1949, the current school has served New Westminster students exceedingly well, but the facility is outdated and requires seismic remediation. It is the only secondary school in the City of New Westminster and one of the largest in B.C., which will be a key consideration in planning and building the new school.

Also importantly, part of the property is located on a former burial area. Commitments have been made that no construction will take place on any known burial area. For more information about the history of the school and property, and the School District's ongoing work with groups with historical connections to the site, see pages 9 and 10.

ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

Previous consultation with the community has informed planning to date and community and stakeholder consultation will continue through all phases of construction. The consultation program will be inclusive, and will incorporate various tools for face-to-face, online and written participation. Input received through consultation will be considered, along with financial and technical information, in the design for the new school.

MEMORIALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

We are continuing to engage with First Nations communities, the Chinese Benevolent Association, the Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council, Inclusion BC, and other organizations that represent communities with a history or potential history of ancestral burials on the site. As the project moves into the design stage, the School District will lead a Memorialization Advisory Committee (MAC) that will engage with First Nations, the Chinese community, Inclusion BC and other affected communities.

We are working with these organizations to better understand their views and preferences regarding the ongoing planning and investigation work. We will continue to engage with affected communities and gather their input on how best to memorialize the dedicated and protected areas of the site that are known to have been used for burials.

New Westminster Secondary School

The current New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) is home to approximately 2,000 students, grades 9 through 12, with 200 teachers and staff. It is the only secondary school in the City of New Westminster and one of the largest in B.C.

About the NWSS Site

The New Westminster Secondary School is located on the southeast section of the city block bordered by Tenth Avenue, Eighth Street and Eighth Avenue in New Westminster. The current school is adjacent to Mercer Field and Stadium, Moody Park Arena and Massey Theatre, all of which will continue to serve the community once the new school is built.

HISTORY

During the early years of development in New Westminster, some areas of the property were used as burial grounds. The Chinese community in particular have a deep connection to the property, as original Chinese settlers would have been buried in what was then called the New Westminster Public Cemetery. The cemetery began as a small one-acre site on Douglas Road (now Eighth Street) in 1861. As demand increased, the cemetery was expanded, with new lands being cleared for use by both city and provincial institutions.

PROTECTED AREAS

Both the Government of British Columbia and the New Westminster School District made a commitment to protect and preserve the historical significance of the site and to ensure that no construction will take place on any known burial area. The New Westminster Secondary School Replacement Project is dedicated to meeting this commitment.

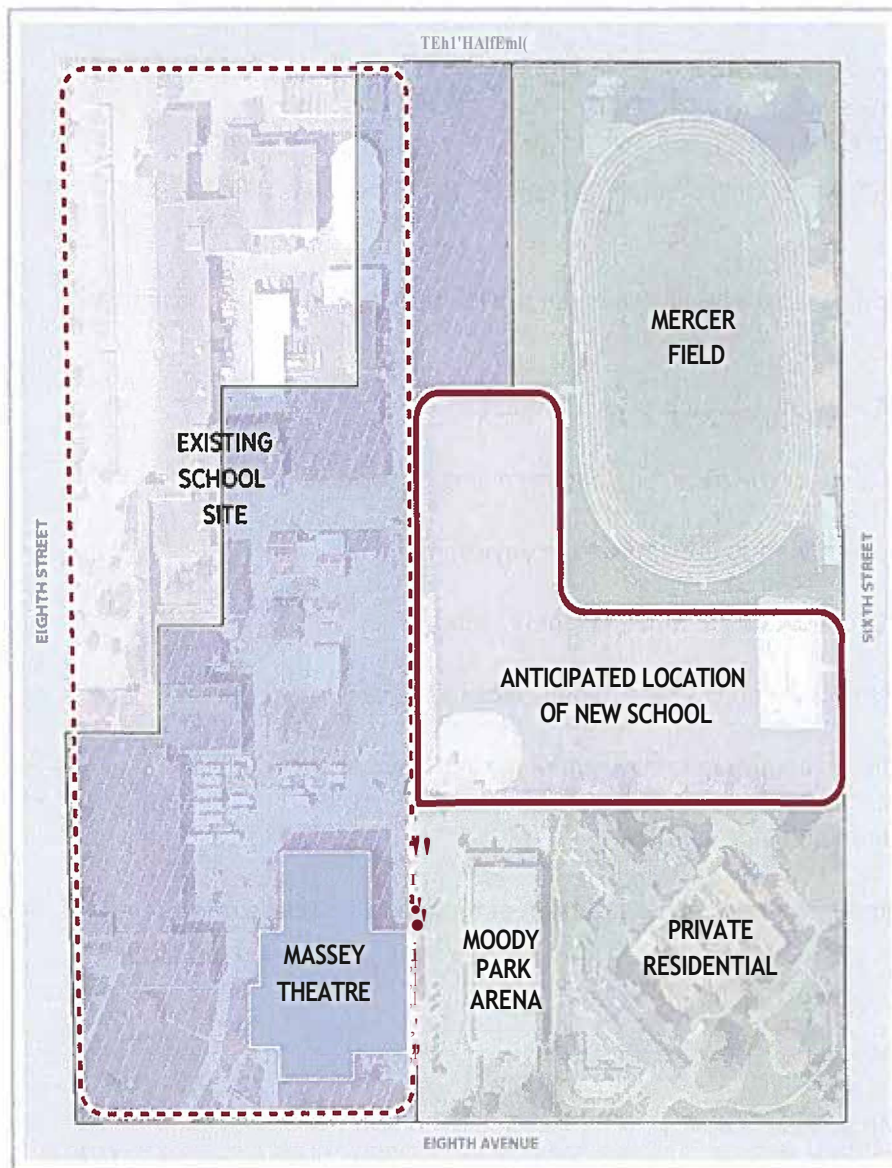
With the guidance of professional archeologists and historians, we are continuing to study the history of the site and identify how the land has been used. Archeological and geotechnical investigations done to date have shown no evidence of human remains. More work is being conducted to fully confirm where burials may have taken place on the site, and if any human remains or artifacts remain. A trained archeologist will oversee excavation around sensitive areas.

A portion of this site has been designated as a protected area and will be converted to a passive park with a memorial area. As part of this engagement, information will be gathered from key stakeholders to help determine the best way to memorialize the history of the site.

MEMORIALIZATION

The New Westminster School District is fully dedicated to consulting and engaging regarding the memorialization of these historically significant areas of the school site. Representatives from First Nations communities, the Chinese community and other groups with historical connections to the site will be invited to participate in a Memorialization Advisory Committee (MAC) that will advise the School District on the most appropriate and respectful ways to commemorate the historical uses of the site.

NWSS SITE MAP



LEGEND

-  Existing school site
-  Anticipated location of new school
-  City and private property not available for school
-  Area under analysis to identify extent of burial use and buildable locations

CONSTRAINTS FOR CONSTRUCTION

- Property limits
- Setbacks are required from private lands in the northeast and southeast corners
- Burial area confirmed as cemetery is not developable
- Burial areas with limits to be determined through ongoing analysis
- Massey Theatre will remain as a community resource
- Playing fields will remain functional to the degree possible during construction
- Existing school will remain functional throughout construction

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



Consultation Topics: Board of Education - Project Aspirations

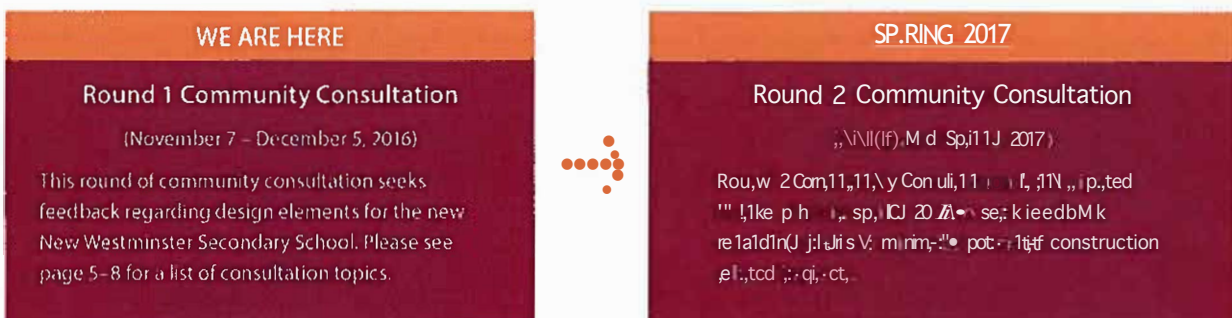
The New Westminster School District has developed a set of project aspirations to provide inspiration and direction for the planning team. Input received during this round of community consultation will be considered, along with financial and technical information, in the design for the new secondary school.

For more information and to provide feedback about the project aspirations, please complete a Feedback Form.

The Board of Education for New Westminster Schools has developed 10 project aspirations for designing and building the new school:

1. Build a school that will support the evolving learning environment
2. Create a school with the flexibility to meet the needs of a rapidly changing society
3. Develop a sustainable design that will minimize impacts on the environment
4. Develop a design with an emphasis on healthy students, teachers and staff
5. Respect, protect and preserve the historical and cultural significance of the site
6. Create spaces that consider the role of rapidly changing technology in the ways students learn
7. Create opportunities for school community engagement
8. Create learning spaces where students and staff interact outside of the traditional classroom environment
9. Make teaching and learning spaces visible
10. Design a school that inspires and nourishes creativity

CONSULTATION TIMELINE



New Westminster Secondary School Replacement Project

Memorialization Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

1. Background

In June 2016, the provincial government announced funding for the replacement of New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS). The current school was built in 1949 and is old and seismically unstable. Scheduled to open in 2019, with construction starting in 2017, the new NWSS will have room for up to 1900 students and will be designed to accommodate enrolment growth and possible expansions.

In addition to the many considerations related to the replacement of any school, the existing NWSS is located on a property with a long history. During the early years of development in New Westminster, some areas of the site were used as burial grounds. The Chinese community in particular have a deep connection to the property, as original Chinese settlers would have been buried in what was then called the New Westminster Public Cemetery. It was common practice at the time for the Chinese community to regularly exhume and return remains to China for final burial and this practice is well documented at the school site. The cemetery began as a small one acre site on Douglas Road (now Eighth Street) in 1861. As demand increased, the cemetery was expanded with new lands being cleared for use by both City and Provincial institutions. In 1892, the City gave permission for the Chinese community to use (exclusively) an area adjacent to 8th Street, likely south of the original cemetery site. In the same year, a smallpox epidemic prompted the construction of an Isolation Hospital on the site, which likely defined the eastern edge of the cemetery. The Isolation Hospital was destroyed by fire in 1911.

In 1907 the cemetery area was declared full by the City Sanitation Inspector and precipitated the creation of a new cemetery north of the original site called the Douglas Road Cemetery in 1908. The Chinese Benevolent Association leased an area adjacent to the Douglas Road Cemetery for their exclusive use in 1909. This lease was cancelled in 1914 and the Douglas Road Cemetery was in operation until approximately 1920.

Following the closure of the Douglas Road Cemetery, the property was used for a number of purposes, including a public works yard and staging area for the military during the Second World War. Following the end of the war, the New Westminster Secondary School was constructed on the site, where it remains to this day.

Government and the New Westminster School District have committed that no construction will take place on any known burial area. Investigative work continues on the site to identify areas that may have been used for burial.

The School District continues to consult with the Chinese Benevolent Association, First Nations communities, the legacy Initiatives Advisory Council, Inclusion BC and other organizations that represent communities with a history or potential history of ancestral burials on the site.

2. Research to Date:

Research reports that describe the historical use of the school property were prepared in 2005 and 2008. Archaeologists monitored geoenvironmental investigations in 2007 and the installation of buried utilities in 2011 and 2013. No materials associated with the use of the property as a burial ground were encountered. Non-invasive geophysical investigations (electromagnetic survey mapping and ground penetrating radar profiling) were completed in 2007, 2012, and 2016 to help characterize ground conditions and further assess the likelihood of burials being present on the school property. Research completed to date suggest areas most intensively used for burial purposes are situated along the western margin of the property (adjacent to 8th Street) and do not extend into the area currently under consideration for construction of the replacement school.

New Westminster Secondary School Replacement Project Memorialization Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

As the Province and the New Westminster School District are committed to preserving and protecting the historical site, an archaeological field program is planned for the fall of 2016 to investigate the results of the geophysical investigations. The archaeological activities will take place before construction commences to confirm the planned school and school amenities are located outside of known burial areas.

3. Need for a Memorialization Advisory Committee

As part of the consultation process, and to provide input in the development of this process, the School District is creating a Memorialization Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will provide focused input and feedback regarding memorialization of the protected areas of the site and other relevant topics such as the management of culturally significant historical findings on the site. In addition to providing a vehicle for two way communications with the Project team, this committee will also provide the opportunity for participants to share their perspectives with other groups that may have differing cultural interests.

The advisory committee will be chaired by a designated representative from the New Westminster School District. Participation may include First Nations communities, the Chinese Benevolent Association, Inclusion BC, the Masons and other known organizations that have a historical linkage to the site and a direct connection to the individuals and families that were buried in the protected area.

4. Mandate

The role of the New Westminster Secondary School Replacement Project Memorialization Advisory Committee is:

- to provide input and recommendations to the New Westminster School District regarding memorialization of the protected areas of the site. At its initial meetings, the Committee will develop a work plan and meeting schedule to coincide with key project milestones.
- to communicate within the organizations represented regarding the progress of the project
- to advise the School District should remains be discovered

5. Key Deliverables

The committee will provide the School District with a series of specific recommendations for memorializing the property. At the committee's discretion, these recommendations may consider written submissions from other interested organizations.

6. Term

The mandate of the group will be complete when the New Westminster Secondary School Replacement Project has been completed, the old school deconstructed, and the memorial structure(s) installed. (anticipated late 2020)

7. Membership

New Westminster Secondary School Replacement Project Memorialization Advisory Committee will be comprised of representatives from a diverse range of stakeholder groups that have a historical linkage to the site and a direct connection to the individuals and families that were buried in the protected area.

8. Invitation to Appoint Representatives to the Memorialization Advisory Committee

8.1. Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council (LIAC) will be asked to put forward names of organizations that should be represented on the Memorialization Advisory Committee.

New Westminster Secondary School Replacement Project Memorialization Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

- 8.2. The Project team will contact the organizations put forward by LIAC to request that they nominate a representative to sit on the committee.
- 8.3. The Project team will contact other groups that have a historical linkage to the site and which have not yet been identified by LIAC to request that they nominate a representative to the committee.

9. Meetings

- 9.1. Schedule: The first meeting of the Committee will be held in the fall of 2016, with further meetings to be scheduled according to the Work Plan developed by the committee.
- 9.2. Location: Meetings will be held at the School District offices in New Westminster.
- 9.3. Agendas: A meeting agenda will be circulated prior to each meeting.
- 9.4. Recording: A meeting recorder will capture summary meeting notes and action items. These summary notes will include a record of attendance, summary notes that highlight matters discussed, key interests raised, and follow-up items.
- 9.5. Reporting: Notes from meetings will form part of the consultation record and will be included in a Consultation Summary Report.

10. Roles and Responsibilities

- 10.1. Meetings will be chaired by a designated representative of the New Westminster School District.
- 10.2. The School District will keep the committee informed of progress at key milestones.
- 10.3. The Office of the Superintendent of New Westminster Schools will be responsible for circulating meeting agendas, recording meeting minutes and action items.
- 10.4. Memorialization Advisory Committee members will make every effort to attend meetings as scheduled according to the Work Plan developed by the Committee.
- 10.5. Members will be engaged, constructive and respectful of other members' perspectives.
- 10.6. Members of the Memorialization Advisory Committee who are appointed in a representative capacity of a stakeholder organization have a responsibility to:
 - 10.6.1. Outline the role of the committee to their representative group;
 - 10.6.2. Understand and bring forward the views of their representative group to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee;
 - 10.6.3. Establish a communications protocol with their representative group to ensure their group has the ability to review meeting summaries and provide feedback and comments so that their committee member can bring them forward in subsequent meetings.
 - 10.6.4. Members may be requested to review material in advance of meetings in order for meetings to be efficient and effective.

11. Expenses

Members of the Committee will not be compensated for the time spent; however, reasonable expenses incurred for transportation will be reimbursed.