

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Ministry of Education *Seismic Mitigation Program Development Advisory Committee*

#### **Timeline:**

March 2004 to March 2005

#### **Objective:**

To provide advice to the Ministry of Education (MEd) in the development of a Seismic Mitigation Program for public schools in BC and to assist with the gathering of information required to prepare a submission to government outlining the overall requirements for a long-term program to reduce seismic hazards in BC schools.

#### **Background:**

MEd has recognized the need to address the seismic upgrading of public schools since the late 1980's, when it initiated seismic assessments of schools in BC. Based on the results of these assessments, MEd funded several structural seismic upgrading projects in Vancouver and Victoria in 1991 and 1992. A change in Treasury Board policy in 1993 reduced capital funding support for seismic upgrades, allowing renovations to proceed only as a component of an approved rejuvenation project.

In 1997, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) reported on the state of earthquake preparedness in the province. In response to the OAG report, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Legislature tabled a report on earthquake risk in 1999.

As a result of one of the PAC recommendations, the Ministry of Finance Seismic Mitigation Program (SMP) was approved as a pilot program in the 1999/00 fiscal year, with a mandate to protect life, property and essential operations in provincially owned or funded buildings through the mitigation of hazards due to earthquakes. The SMP allocated approximately \$130 million to government agencies between the fiscal years 2000 through 2003. During the four year term of this program, funding of over \$63 million was provided to 39 school districts located in high seismic risk zones.

MEd was supportive of the SMP and is committed to the continuation of seismic upgrading of public schools in all high risk seismic zones in order to maintain a safe learning environment for students. In consultation with the SMP, MEd approved capital funding in 2001 for several rejuvenation projects where seismic mitigation was a high priority. Additional projects were supported in the Ministry's three-year Capital Plan from 2003/04 to 2005/06. Total capital funding of \$28.7 million has been supported for 13 seismic upgrading projects at nine schools in Vancouver, Coquitlam, North Vancouver and Victoria.

Government has announced new funding for MEd for seismic upgrading of BC schools in the 2006/07 fiscal year. This new funding includes \$50 million for major capital expenditures and \$20 million in operating funding for non-structural and minor structural upgrading and debt service and amortization costs associated with the new capital expenditures. MEd has allocated \$8 million a year in operating funds in 2004/05 and 2005/06 for non-structural and minor structural upgrading.

**Committee Members:**

Chair	Keith Miller, Director, Funding Department
Co-Chair	Nick Watkins, A/Manager, Funding Department
BCSDSTA Representatives	Brenda Ng, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 39 (Vancouver) George Ambeault, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
APEGBC Representatives	Dr. Carlos Ventura, P.E., PEng. Department of Civil Engineering, UBC John Robertson, P. Eng., City of Vancouver
AIBC Representative	Larry McFarland, Principal Larry McFarland Architects Ltd.
SPOA Representative	Frank Geyer, P.Eng., Director of Facilities School District No. 37 (Delta)

**Workplan:**

The Seismic Mitigation Advisory Committee (SMAC) will be consulted in the process of undertaking the following tasks.

1.	Seismic assessment tool development	MEd is working with several members of APEGBC to establish a common procedure for the evaluation of seismic hazards in existing schools and estimating remediation costs
2.	Assessment of schools	MEd wishes to undertake a seismic assessment of all existing schools in high risk seismic zones of the province
3.	Non-structural and minor structural project funding	MEd will be allocating funds for expenditure in 2004/05
4.	Non-structural and structural mitigation design guidelines	MEd will be updating the design guidelines published by the SMP in 2000
5.	Seismic mitigation ranking criteria	MEd will be establishing criteria for the prioritization of seismic upgrading projects and will be looking at ways to coordinate seismic requirements into the facility audit process
6.	Seismic data requirements	A data management system is required for recording inventory data and completion of mitigation work
7.	Post completion audits	Determine if there is a need to evaluate completed seismic mitigation projects