

March 19, 2020

Dear Applicant:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Our File #: EECD/013/2020)

On February 24, 2020, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development received your request for access to the following records/information:

"I am looking for any information, emails or briefing notes related to the damage, repair, or closer of Bishop Feild Elementary in the last 4 years."

On February 27, 2020, your request was modified to read:

"I am looking for any reports or briefing notes related to damage, or repairs to Bishop Field Elementary in the four years prior to the date of this application."

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to provide access to the requested information.

You may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 (the Act)*. A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The appeal may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8
Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the *Act*.

Please be advised that this letter will be published following a 72 hour period after it is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the letter posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned by telephone at 709-729-7180 or by email at garynoftall@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



Gary Noftall
ATIPP Coordinator

Attachment

KEY MESSAGES

Department of EECD/Transportation and Works

Bishop Feild

February 20, 2018

Summary:

- Bishop Feild School has been closed since October when a part of the ceiling in the gymnasium collapsed and fell to the floor.
- The Department of Transportation and Works announced in December that it was shutting the school down for the remainder of the year due to the amount of time it will take for an assessment to be completed and the time to repair the school following the assessment.
- Students are now attending school at the former School for the Deaf.

Anticipated Questions:

- When will we know whether or not the school will reopen?

Key Messages:

1. A part of the ceiling collapsed in October. Engineering firm Nova Consultants started assessing the school in early December following discussions outlining what would be the scope of the contract to be assessed.
2. To perform a thorough assessment, engineers must remove ceilings throughout the school to assess the structure of the building. That process is still underway.
3. We expect the results of the assessment in early March. Once we have those results, we can determine next steps.

Secondary

1. It's an 89 year old building that had a part of the ceiling collapse.
2. We appreciate frustration and concerns of some parents. They want to have their children return to the school, but a thorough assessment must be completed before anyone is allowed to return to the school.

Prepared by: Brian Scott, Director of Communications

Approved by: Cory Grandy, ADM Infrastructure/P.Smith, ADM Corporate and School Infrastructure, B. Gardiner-DM EECD.

Department of Transportation and Works

Bishop Feild

October 19, 2018

Summary:

- Bishop Feild School has been closed since October 2017 when a part of the ceiling in the gymnasium fell to the floor. In December, the department of Transportation and Works shut down the school for the remainder of the year due to the amount of time it would take for an assessment to be completed and time to repair the school following the assessment. Students now attend school at the former School for the Deaf. The NLESD released the structural engineering assessment report May 11, noted that the structure was sound, some concrete repairs were necessary, the ceilings would need to be replaced, and other issues, including building envelope and drainage issues would also be addressed.

Anticipated Questions: When will the school reopen? What work is left to complete? How much will repairs cost?

Key Messages:

- As part of the engineering investigation last year, one third of the plaster ceilings in the school were removed. This led to an engineering report that indicated the remaining ceilings should be removed. The Department of Transportation and Works awarded a contract for this work on October 5 to Belfor Property Restoration.
- The Department of Transportation and Works has also issued an RFP for the architectural and engineering consulting work required to complete the building repair design. The department awarded the contract in October.
- The department anticipates the interior work to be completed to allow for students and staff to return to the school in September 2019. Proper safety measures will be in place to ensure the safety of students and staff as work on the exterior continues after the re-occupancy.

Prepared by: Brian Scott, Media Relations Manager

Approved by: Cory Grandy, ADM