

The provincial government states that its vision is to “turn schools into community hubs – bringing valuable educational and community services together under one roof”. While government indicates “space for non-profit organizations” space for “for profit” is not mentioned.

The government also gives local school boards the authority to approve service agreements *as outlined below*:

School Act, [RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 412

Agreements

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(1) A board may, subject to this Act, the regulations and the orders of the minister,

(b) enter into an agreement concerning the promotion, development or operation of recreational and community services.

(4) A board may operate a Provincial resource program in accordance with an agreement with the minister.

(5) A board may operate an early learning program with the prior agreement of the minister.

To assist in the Advisory Committee’s task of defining criteria for our own NLC, included below are comments by government and Districts with government-approved NLC space.

Government Statements re: NLCs

“Under the Neighbourhoods of Learning model, schools and community organizations are brought together where people can access educational and community services under one roof. Possible uses include early learning or child-care programs, space for non-profit organizations, health clinics, sports programs, family resource or seniors’ centres, industry training, or branch libraries.”

“Our vision is to keep schools at the core of the neighbourhoods they serve by including space for community programming,”

"Under the Neighbourhoods of Learning concept, schools become community facilities as well as learning spaces. Possible uses include early learning or child-care programs, space for non-profit organizations, health clinics, sports programs, family resource or seniors’ centres, industry training, or branch libraries.

“Schools serve as the perfect place for us to focus our attention on lifelong learning, from the needs of our youngest learners to those in the K-12 system, to providing families with the important services they need at one central location.”

“Schools can be neighbourhood hubs that provide valuable services for families,”

Abbotsford

“The new Neighbourhood Learning Centre is expected to include shared common spaces for community agencies, Fraser Health offices, a computer lab, counselling and seniors’ services, a day care, kitchen and other offices.”

Alberni

“The project we are announcing today gives us the opportunity to build a school from the ground up with space designed specifically to accommodate community use.”

“Community School Programs:

- * French Parents 'n Tots
- * Mondays @ Maquinna
- * Wednesdays @ Wood
- * Homework Buddies (Alberni Elementary)
- * After School Club (8th Ave Elementary)
- * Nights Alive
- * Wee Readers (Alberni Elementary)”

Williams Lake

“...said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “I have heard from the board of education and the community that Marie Sharpe Elementary can incorporate numerous programs to support Williams Lake families.”

Chilliwack

“Rosedale Elementary/Middle School will have an additional 810 square metres of space for day care, youth and Aboriginal services, and an additional 100 metres – funded by the Municipality of Chilliwack – for community multi-purpose use.”

“Yarrow Elementary will be designed to include 460 square metres of additional space for preschool, before and after school care, performing and visual arts space, community education, support offices and agency offices.”

Oliver

“The addition to Southern Okanagan Secondary will be built to LEED Gold standard and will include a new library, computer lab, science classrooms... super science lab and a new gymnasium”

Community programs and services in the Neighbourhood Learning Centre will include:

- Day-care centre
- Community counselling centre

- Community performance space
- Adult learning centre

“This will address learning and other related needs of our community.”

Powell River

“Participating in the Neighbourhoods of Learning project will allow the school board to continue its work with the City of Powell River and its education partners in working towards a shared vision of community services”

Revelstoke

...“the Ministry can be assured that we will implement a Neighbourhood of Learning that meets government expectations and local community priorities for the betterment of our community for generations to come.”

“Revelstoke Secondary will include a 275-seat theatre and will offer co-ordinated health services for vulnerable teens that include an on-site social worker, mental health services and substance abuse prevention.”

Revelstoke Elementary will become B.C.’s first early-learning hub designed to provide seamless services for children from infancy to school age. The early-learning hub will include: a StrongStart BC program, two state-of-the-art childcare centres, an early-learning library and a child-care resource and referral program. The school will become the new home of programs that provide medical, dental, literacy and community services to students and their families. Another exciting feature of this school will be the addition of an acrobatic centre; twenty per cent of Revelstoke’s student population participates in acrobatics.

Richmond (italics mine)

“I’m excited that the new school will combine education programs with the delivery of a wide range of social and community services that will enhance the quality of life for our students and our community.”

North Saanich

“By working in partnership with community groups like the Peninsula Recreation Commission, the Province and Saanich school district we are making sure this new school will benefit the entire community,” said Coell. “And by including space for a Neighbourhood Learning Centre, this school will encourage stronger connections between students and their community.”

“Building on a successful partnership with the Peninsula Recreation Commission, the North Saanich Neighbourhood Learning Centre will include an enlarged gymnasium and fitness area, as well as space for meetings, fine arts and wood working.”

Vancouver: General Gordon School, Queen Mary, Lord Strathcona

