
Fw: Helen Gorman Playground

From Chantelle Desrosiers <Chantelle.Desrosiers@sd23.bc.ca>

Date Mon 2025-07-14 8:42 PM

To Lise Bradshaw <Lise.Bradshaw@sd23.bc.ca>; Board of Education <Boardof.Education@sd23.bc.ca>

 3 attachments (1,017 KB)

Letter to Minister Beare re Helen Gorman Playground.pdf; Letter to Minister Ma re Helen Gorman Playground.pdf; 23701 Milsom Outgoing.pdf;

FYI

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From: Krista Ramirez <Krista.Ramirez@westkelownacity.ca>

Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 2:39:26 PM

To: Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>

Cc: Chantelle Desrosiers <Chantelle.Desrosiers@sd23.bc.ca>

Subject: Helen Gorman Playground

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to inform you that Mayor Milsom has sent a letter of support to Minister Ma and Minister Beare, advocating for the establishment of a new, inclusive playground at Helen Gorman Elementary School. We have received a response from Minister Ma, which I have attached along with our original letters of support to both Ministers for your review.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,



KRISTA RAMIREZ | EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR |
MAYOR MILSOM, COUNCIL AND RON BOWLES, CAO
3731 Old Okanagan Highway, West Kelowna, BC V4T 0G7
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Office of the Mayor
City of West Kelowna
3731 Old Okanagan Highway, West Kelowna, British Columbia V4T 0G7
Tel.: 778-797-2210; Fax: 778-797-1001

May 29, 2025

The Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Education and Child Care

Re: Support for Helen Gorman Elementary School's Inclusive Playground Application under the Playground Enhancement Program

Dear Minister Beare,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you in my capacity as Mayor of West Kelowna to express my full and enthusiastic support for Helen Gorman Elementary School's application to the upcoming round of the Playground Enhancement Program for the installation of a new inclusive playground at 3230 Salmon Road, West Kelowna, BC V4T 1A7.

Helen Gorman Elementary is a foundational institution within our community, providing a nurturing and safe environment for children to learn and grow. However, the existing playground facilities are not fully accessible and do not adequately meet the needs of all students, particularly those living with disabilities.

Inclusive playgrounds are vital to fostering a sense of belonging among children of all abilities. Research consistently highlights the benefits of such facilities in promoting social interaction, physical activity, and emotional well-being. A playground that is designed with universal accessibility in mind ensures that every child—regardless of physical, sensory, or cognitive ability—has the opportunity to play, connect with peers, and thrive in a welcoming environment.

This initiative directly supports our municipality's core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and aligns closely with the provincial government's commitment to creating accessible public infrastructure. I respectfully request your support in allocating the necessary funding and resources to bring this meaningful project to life.

Your assistance would have a profound and lasting impact on the lives of many children and families in West Kelowna. Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to building inclusive communities across British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gord Milsom".

Mayor Gord Milsom
Mayor of West Kelowna



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City of West Kelowna
3731 Old Okanagan Highway, West Kelowna, British Columbia V4T 0G7
Tel.: 778-797-2210; Fax: 778-797-1001

May 29, 2025

The Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Infrastructure

Re: Support for Helen Gorman Elementary School's Inclusive Playground Application under the Playground Enhancement Program

Dear Minister Ma,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you in my capacity as Mayor of West Kelowna to express my full and enthusiastic support for Helen Gorman Elementary School's application to the upcoming round of the Playground Enhancement Program for the installation of a new inclusive playground at 3230 Salmon Road, West Kelowna, BC V4T 1A7.

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gord Milsom".

Mayor Gord Milsom
Mayor of West Kelowna



July 11, 2025
Our Ref. 23701

Their Worship Gord Milsom, Mayor
City of West Kelowna

Email Address: c/o Krista.Ramirez@westkelownacity.ca

Dear Mayor Milsom:

Thank you for your letter of May 29, 2025, regarding support for replacement of the existing playground equipment at Helen Gorman Elementary School. Young students in School District 23 are fortunate to have an advocate in you as their Mayor.

The Ministry of Infrastructure, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Child Care, is committed to providing the children of British Columbia with safe, accessible, and inclusive playgrounds where they are able to play and make friends for years to come. Playgrounds are not only essential for the social and physical development of children, but they play an important role in building strong and resilient communities.

Thank you also for your support of an inclusive playground at Helen Gorman Elementary School. The process of funding playgrounds starts with the Boards of Education providing the Ministry of Infrastructure with their playground requests as part of their annual capital plan submission for minor capital projects. These are due by September 30th. I encourage you to work with the Central Okanagan School District to ensure they are aware of your support for the playground at Helen Gorman Elementary School.

We look forward to receiving the Central Okanagan School District's playground project requests and will consider it as part of the process of evaluating requests from all 60 of the school districts. Decisions on playground allocations will be made as part of Budget 2026 early next spring.

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Thank you for taking the time to write and for your commitment to creating safe, inclusive, and accessible infrastructure in your community for everyone to enjoy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bowinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a trailing flourish.

Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Infrastructure