

Overview:

In May 2007, a preliminary analysis was conducted to determine the feasibility of relocating the existing Vocational Centre to the Main Campus, either into a renovated gym or a stand-alone, pre-engineered building. At that time this project was deemed feasible based on a number of conditions (ie: sale of existing property would cover the cost of a new facility).

Since then, a more detailed design and estimate has been prepared to determine the feasibility of constructing a stand-alone, pre-engineered building located on the Main Campus. This proposal includes the disposal of the Tofino Street property, for which Ministry approval was granted on August 17, 2007.

Background:

The Powell River Campus developed an Education Plan in 2003 that coincided with the purchase and upgrade to the main campus facility located on Selkirk Avenue. At that time, one of the goals identified for the campus was to relocate the trades programs located at the Tofino Street site. A key consideration for the campus has been the need to improve the experience students have while attending programs, and by bringing together a larger student body on one campus we will be able to generate a more dynamic campus life experience. This undertaking is closely linked to enrolment management and the ongoing vitality of the Powell River Campus.

In recent years School District 47 has become actively involved in the delivery of post secondary trades programs. Through our dual credit partnership with them we expect that the new facility will be well-used and that our investment will strengthen this important partnership.

Needs & Objectives:

The intent of this project is to replace the existing, aged trades building with a new facility, based on Ministry space standards, and current building code. The proposed facility will be a permanent structure of non-combustible construction designed for a 50-75 year life span, and will be located on the Main Campus. Relocating the facility will be a great benefit to the Carpentry & Automotive programs, as students and faculty will have access to classrooms, offices, lounge, library and other services provided in the Main Campus building.

Proposal:

It is assumed that only the automotive and carpentry shops, tool crib and staff offices would be replicated. Existing under-utilized classrooms in the Main Campus building would be provided for lectures. Lounge and library facilities would also be available for trade students in the Main Campus building. Additionally, students and faculty will have ready access to the Bookstore, Student Services, Computer Labs, and services such as the "Food for Thought" Café.