



## Heritage Vancouver

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June 17, 2019

Emilia Doro  
Member of Bayview Community School PAC

Dear members of Bayview Community School PAC,

We are responding to your invitation to the Community Farewell to Bayview School on Wednesday June 19, 2019. Heritage Vancouver does not plan to attend this event. We see no reason to celebrate the loss of another of Vancouver's fine heritage schools.

For several years, we have been actively encouraging the Vancouver School Board and others to find a creative solution to retaining and seismically upgrading this landmark school. Bayview Community School was featured on the Heritage Vancouver 2016 Top10 Watch List of Endangered Sites. A copy of this article is attached.

Built in 1913-1914 in the Classical Revival style, Bayview Community School is one of Vancouver's most impressive Edwardian era elementary schools. It is tragic that Kitsilano, one of the city's best preserved historic neighbourhoods, will be losing all its heritage elementary schools. The future of Henry Hudson School has not been decided, but given its poor condition it will likely be demolished, following the fate of Bayview, Tennyson and General Gordon Elementary Schools.

Under the Provincially funded Seismic Mitigation Program, too many of the city's heritage schools are being demolished and replaced by new buildings without proper consideration for upgrades to the existing building. This happens whenever it is cheaper to replace a historic school with its high ceilings, generous corridors, classrooms and other spaces, with a new school designed to the much tighter current space standards. Whereas many of the heritage schools have served Vancouverites for about 100 years old, the new schools are built to commercial standards with a lifespan closer to 40 than 100 years. Heritage Vancouver Society cannot support such a short sighted and ill-conceived policy that denies Vancouverites of prime built heritage.

Yours sincerely,

Heritage Vancouver Society

CC. Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent, Vancouver School Board (VSB)  
Janet Fraser, Board Chair, VSB  
Jim Meschino, Director of Facilities, VSB