

Eagle Mountain Middle School
110 Dogwood Dr
Anmore
BC V3H 5G1

The Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9047
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria
BC V8W 9E2

March 13, 2014

Dear Mr Heyman,

As representatives of parents of children attending Eagle Mountain Middle School in Anmore, we are greatly concerned about ongoing incidents of soil contamination on the school grounds from a neighbouring residential estate.

We understand the most recent soil contamination incident came to light in September 2017, following routine testing of the site. High levels of E. coli and fecal coliform were detected and as a result a pollution abatement order was issued on November 23, 2017. The school was notified of the need to erect for fencing thereafter around the contaminated area, which is a play area for the students. The fencing was erected in December 2017. Since then, the area has been cordoned off whilst further reports were obtained.

It appears that the Ministry of the Environment required another report from the strata council of Anmore Green Estates, from where the effluent has, in all likelihood, leached. This was due by March 1, 2018.

Whilst there is ongoing disagreement about the responsibility and long-term solution for this problem, the children attending Eagle Mountain Middle school have been deprived of the use of the outdoor space, which is already extremely limited. Proposals to investigate the use of the fenced-off land for an outdoor play structure that the school is severely lacking, have been placed on hold indefinitely. Of greater concern is the danger to the health of children, staff and visitors to the school. Whilst all students have been told to avoid the restricted area, there is still the ever present possibility that this may not happen at all times, and it poses a very serious risk to health.

Eagle Mountain Middle School and the adjacent Heritage Woods Secondary School have over 2000 students in attendance. This contamination of school grounds has affected and concerned many families in the area. We are now approaching Spring break with no imminent prospect of regaining use of the affected areas. Parents have learned of the disagreements in culpability and barriers to reaching a

pragmatic solution to this matter from local press reports. We strongly believe that this matter needs to be treated as one of utmost urgency by all agencies involved.

As parents, residents and tax payers we are entitled to expect a degree of expediency in resolving the matter permanently and in ensuring that the risk of future contamination is averted. Drier weather conditions may alleviate the immediate problem, but is not a resolution and leaves us in the precarious position of a recurrence of ground contamination.

We now request your written response explaining what is to be done to rectify the situation. We appreciate that engineering reports have been necessary and this has accounted for some of the time elapsed, but even with due consideration to this, the pace of progress has been unacceptable to us.

As representatives of the Parents Advisory Council, we look forward to a response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Diane MacSporran
PAC Chair – Eagle Mountain Middle School
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