



Vancouver, B.C.

The original west wing of General Gordon was built in 1911 and the first addition completed in 1925, extending the building out to the east wing and providing a new central entry and gym. In 1967 an extension was added to the east of the building, creating a new multipurpose area. The current gymnasium is too small for typical physical education programs, and requires extensive seismic upgrades. At a minimum the gymnasium would be demolished while the existing building is upgraded seismically. The building has been previously upgraded for accessibility, adding a new lift at the main entry and an elevator within the building to access the 3 floors.

As of September 30, 2008, current school enrolment for General Gordon Elementary School is 400 students with additional 2 full day Kindergarten and 2 Early Learning classrooms. Average class sizes are: 19.9 for Kindergarten students, 20.6 for Grades 1-3 and 24.4 for Grades 4-7. The school also houses an extended French program for intermediate grades, requiring a substantially larger library to cover the material. The goal of this project for VSB is to bring together education and community services into a single neighbourhood hub. General Gordon Elementary School is one of three schools participating in the Neighbourhood Centres of Learning and Development program, along with Queen Mary and Lord Strathcona Elementary Schools.

For new schools, VSB mandates a LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Canada Gold standard. Sustainability must be considered for all building scheme options: 90% renovation, partial renovation and new construction. It may be easier to achieve the LEED target under certain schemes, but the effort must be made for each development option.