

John G. Diefenbaker Elementary School Seismic Replacement Project



Background

In October 2024, the Richmond School District received project approval from the provincial government for the replacement of Diefenbaker Elementary School, originally constructed in 1980. The project involves constructing a new, two-storey, 3,345 m² facility that will maintain the current student capacity. The new school will include a Neighbourhood Learning Centre and will be built to LEED v4 Gold certification standards, reflecting a strong commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

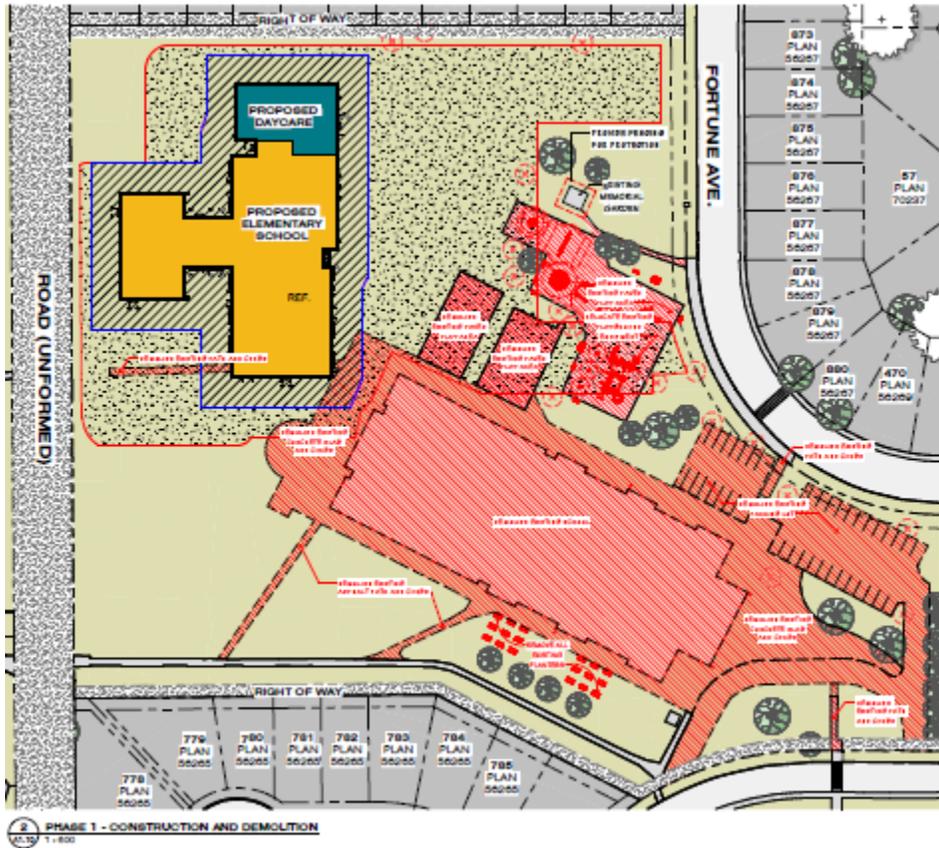
The existing Diefenbaker Elementary will remain fully operational throughout the construction phase. The new building will be situated to the northwest of the current facility. Upon completion, the original building will be decommissioned and demolished, making way for new outdoor amenities, including a sports field and updated playgrounds.

As part of the site redevelopment, school access will be relocated from Hermitage Drive to Fortune Avenue to support improved traffic flow and safety.

What's Happening – March 2026 Update

Building Permit application has gone to the City of Richmond for review. Preload phase is ongoing with densification works completed in February 2026. Preload materials are being applied to site, and will be in place 3 to 6 months, subject to soil conditions. The anticipated completion to Preload phase is October 2026 (latest). It will then be followed by foundation and building construction.

Phase 1: Construction and Demolition



Phase 2: Project Completion

