



SCHOOL CLOSURE POLICY

RATIONALE

The Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation recognizes that a school is central to the educational, cultural, and social well-being of the community it serves. The decision to permanently close a school has significant implications for students, families, staff, and the broader community.

This policy ensures that decisions regarding the permanent closure of a school are made in a transparent, informed, and equitable manner, consistent with the British Columbia Ministry of Education and Child Care's requirements for school closure processes, as outlined in the School Opening and Closure Order (Ministerial Order 194/08).

Through meaningful community consultation and careful consideration of educational, financial, cultural, and logistical factors, the Nation seeks to:

- Ensure that the educational needs and well-being of students remain the primary consideration;
- Maintain trust and accountability between the Nation, school staff, and families;
- Honour community values, traditions, and long-term educational goals; and
- Comply with Ministry expectations for transparent governance and public engagement in school closure decisions.

POLICY

The Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation is committed to ensuring broad community consultation when considering the permanent closure of any school building owned by the Nation.

For the purposes of this policy, permanent closure means closing a school for a period in excess of twelve (12) months. Closures for the purpose of repairs, renovations, or additions are not considered permanent closures.

REFERENCES

- [BC Ministry of Education School Act, Section 73](#)
- [BC Ministry of Education School Opening and Closure Order, 194/08](#)
- [BC Ministry of Education Policy, School Building Closure and Disposal](#)