

OCT. 2026

Carihi Secondary: Fire Recovery Update



IMPORTANT WORK CONTINUES BEHIND THE SCENES

Engineering, design and permitting work continue as the gym restoration and A-Wing replacement projects move forward.

Why Aren't There More Visible Signs of Construction?

This is one of the most common questions we hear from families and community members.

Large capital projects involve much more than construction activity on site. Before significant building work can begin, engineers, architects and district staff must complete extensive design, permitting and technical review processes. These steps help ensure a project meets current building code requirements, addresses site-specific conditions and can be delivered safely and responsibly.

One factor adding more work (and time) to the planning process is the soil conditions on the Carihi site. Detailed investigations have shown that additional engineering analysis and design work are needed before final decisions can be made

for the construction approach for the hallway that will reconnect the gym to the school and the building location of the new A-Wing.

While this work is behind the scenes, it will ensure the projects are designed appropriately for the site and built to current standards.

We understand the community's desire to see visible construction activity as quickly as possible. At the same time, our responsibility is to ensure we get the work done right.

Much of the existing school has served the community for more than 50 years. The decisions being made today will shape Carihi for generations of future students.

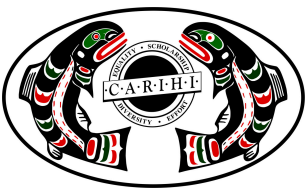
WHAT YOU'LL SEE THIS MONTH

- Demolition activity underway for the gym restoration project.
- Additional engineering and site investigations for the new A-Wing.
- Provincial project signage installed at the school.
- First liaison meeting with Carihi PAC chair and vice-chair.
- Classes, programs and extracurricular activities continue.

Watch for future monthly updates.



CAMPBELL RIVER
School District 72



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Gym Restoration Moves Into Construction Preparation

Construction bins have arrived on site and demolition work is underway in preparation for construction inside the gym.

A-Wing Planning & Design

Design work on the replacement for A-Wing continues to move forward.

Project consultants are currently evaluating three potential locations for the new addition. Each option is being reviewed based on several factors, including site conditions, fire-lane access, building code requirements, construction feasibility, cost, and the day-to-day operation of the school.

The project team expects to receive further analysis and recommendations from engineers and architects before selecting the preferred site. Once that work is complete, the project can advance into the next stages of design and planning.

Project Signage

You may notice a new provincial project sign being installed at Carihi in the coming weeks.

The sign includes an expected completion date of September 2028. This date marks the end of construction for the entire fire recovery project, not just the gym restoration.

The recovery project includes two major pieces of work: repairing the gym and building a new A-Wing. While these projects are connected, they have different timelines and will be completed at different times.

The September 2028 date reflects when all major construction work is expected to be complete. We know many families are particularly interested in the gym timeline, and we will continue to share updates on both projects as key milestones are reached.

Improving Communication & Engagement

We recognize the strong interest that students, families, staff, and alumni continue to have in the recovery and rebuilding process.

In addition to these monthly community update newsletters, the district is working with members of the Carihi Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to create opportunities for more direct communication with the Carihi PAC about the project.

These discussions will provide an opportunity to share project updates, answer parent questions and help build a better understanding of the planning, engineering and construction work.

The district values the advocacy and ongoing interest shown by the Carihi PAC throughout the recovery process. We are committed to maintaining open communication and providing opportunities for meaningful dialogue as the project moves forward.



Above: Crews removing the acoustic panels from the ceiling above the gym.



Left: The old gym floor has been removed and the stage has been cleared.

Since Oct. 12, 160 cubic yards of waste material has been removed from the gym.