

January 30, 2008

Wainwright High School receives modernization funding

Provincial investment in school infrastructure tops \$610 million for 2007/08

Wainwright... Buffalo Trail School Division is receiving funding to modernize Wainwright High School. This is part of a \$190-million investment from the government's Capital Account that will support 20 school infrastructure projects across Alberta and the purchase of 20 new steel-framed modular classrooms.

"The Alberta government is committed to the health and safety of students," said Minister of Education Ron Liepert. "This investment supports one of the Buffalo Trail school board's highest modernization priorities and will significantly enhance the learning environment for students attending this school."

Wainwright High School is receiving funding to upgrade its gymnasium and to address additional facility upgrades that will reduce the school board's operational costs. The next step is for Alberta Education staff to meet immediately with the local school board to finalize the scope of the project and determine the allocation of appropriate funding.

"By reinvesting in our schools the government is ensuring we maintain quality learning environments for our students," said Battle River-Wainwright MLA Doug Griffiths.

Last August, the government announced \$197 million to support 26 major modernization projects throughout the province, bringing investment in new school infrastructure, as well as modernization and maintenance, to more than \$610 million for the 2007/08 fiscal year. Including the \$190 million, current projects include:

- 102 school projects in planning, design or construction stage
- 13 new schools opening 2007/08
- 45 modular classrooms
- 32 P3 schools

"This funding announcement supports the government's first ever 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan," stated Gene Zwozdesky, Associate Minister of Capital Planning and author of the plan. "Foremost, it is a blueprint to guide decisions about schools and other infrastructure projects that benefit Albertans."

The long-term capital plan and strengthening our education system are part of Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity.

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