

May 25, 2011

Calgary schools improved to cope with soaring student numbers

Calgary... Improvements to Notre Dame High School and Chinook Learning Services in Calgary will help both schools cope with soaring enrolments as a result of an investment in local school infrastructure.

Education Minister Dave Hancock, Infrastructure Minister Ray Danyluk and local MLA Teresa Woo-Paw made the announcements at a stop at Notre Dame on Wednesday.

Enrolment at Notre Dame is currently about 1,350 students - 350 more than capacity - and cannot accommodate more. Portables will be replaced with permanent space and provide sufficient Career and Technology Studies (CTS), Fine Arts and classroom space.

Chinook Learning Services provides high school upgrading programs to more than 9,000 part-time adolescent and adult students each year. Its 57-year-old main campus at Viscount Bennett Centre is beyond repair. This project will allow Calgary Board of Education to renovate vacant or under-utilized schools in various areas of Calgary to provide regional programming.

"Education is fundamental to the future of our communities and our province," said Hancock. "With this investment, we are ensuring that our students have safe, caring, respectful and modern learning environments. It is important that we continue to build a positive atmosphere for learning that helps every child succeed and realize their potential."

"This is a sound investment in our children's future and responds to concerns we've been hearing for some time," Woo-Paw added.

Part of an ongoing provincial investment in school infrastructure, this new funding is being distributed for top school infrastructure priorities and to ensure dollars are directed to critical areas.

This is in addition to the Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement (ASAP) project phase two which includes 10 new schools in Okotoks, Langdon, Calgary and Edmonton, opening September 2012. Four new high schools will also open in Edmonton, Calgary, Spruce Grove and Sherwood Park in 2013.

"Alberta Infrastructure will deliver high quality schools that are bright, welcoming spaces, equipped with the latest technology and designed to adapt to changing educational needs," said Danyluk. "These will be buildings that work - for students, for teachers and for the entire community. We will move forward on these projects immediately and our goal is to open the doors for students by 2014."

Projects will be delivered through a combination of public-private partnerships and regional bundles. This approach allows projects to be completed faster than would otherwise be

possible, while taking full advantage of core school designs, economies of scale and private-sector innovations.

The Alberta government is working to build a better Alberta by fostering economic growth, strengthening our health and education systems, investing in infrastructure, supporting safe and strong communities and ensuring a clean and healthy environment.

Details of these and other school infrastructure projects can be found on the Alberta Education website at www.education.alberta.ca.

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