

August 26, 2004

## **\$20 million schools investment benefits St. Paul students**

St. Paul... The East Central Francophone Education Region and the St. Paul Education Regional Division will benefit from a \$20-million investment by the Government of Alberta, resulting in improved facilities for the majority of students in St. Paul.

The overall plan includes the transfer of Racette Junior High School from the St. Paul Education Regional Division to the East Central Francophone Education Region. The facility will be modernized to upgrade various building components such as the roof, windows, fire alarm system and other elements to accommodate the Kindergarten to Grade 12 francophone program. The facility will have space for 445 students.

This stand-alone facility is located down the street from the Francophone Cultural Centre, and is large enough to accommodate both existing students from École du Sommet and the enrolment growth predicted by the East Central Francophone Education Region school board. The school will provide francophone students with more space than their current facility and give them access to computer labs, a larger and improved gymnasium and library as well as additional classrooms.

Students currently at Racette Junior High will transfer to the St. Paul Elementary School, which will be expanded and upgraded to accommodate Kindergarten to Grade 9 students. The renovated school will have space for 815 Catholic elementary-junior high students.

The Glen Avon Protestant School will be relocated and built on a new site adjacent to the high school. When it is opened, it will be able to accommodate 725 Kindergarten to Grade 9 students.

"This was a complex situation involving the majority of students in the St. Paul region. I am delighted we have come to this creative solution that addresses the facility needs of Francophone, Protestant and Catholic students," said Infrastructure Minister Ty Lund.

Learning Minister Dr. Lyle Oberg said the school facilities would ensure a continued positive learning environment for students in the years ahead.

"As a province, we are committed to ensuring students have the learning resources they need to realize their full potential," said Learning Minister Dr. Lyle Oberg. "It is our hope that these improvements will further foster the students' motivation and desire to be the best they can be."

A project of this magnitude usually takes at least three years to complete.

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### **For further information, contact:**

Mark Cooper  
Alberta Infrastructure Communications  
Phone: (780) 422-0506  
Cell phone: (780) 718-2973

Josepha Vanderstoop  
Alberta Learning Communications  
Phone: (780) 427- 0965  
Cell phone: (780) 718-2370

<http://www.infras.gov.ab.ca>

Dial 310-0000 for toll free access outside Edmonton.

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