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\$13.5 million school capital project announced for Raymond

Raymond... The Government of Alberta will provide more than \$13.5 million to the Westwind School Division to improve and modernize poor and underutilized school facilities in the town of Raymond.

The Raymond school solution is a multi-phased project that includes the expansion and modernization of one school, the demolition of another in poor shape, and major renovations to a third. The first phase of the project will involve the expansion and modernization of Raymond Elementary School. When that stage is completed, students currently at Northside Elementary School will move to the newly expanded space and Northside Elementary will be demolished. Finally, Raymond Junior/Senior High School will undergo major renovations, including demolition of a portion of the school and extensive modernizations and upgrades to the rest of the facility.

"I am very pleased with this creative solution for the students of Raymond," Infrastructure and Transportation Minister Dr. Lyle Oberg said. "These renovations and modernizations will ensure the facilities have appropriate, upgraded space for the important programs they deliver. I commend the Westwind School Division for putting forward an innovative plan to address their utilization needs in the best possible manner."

In addition to better and more modern facilities for students in Raymond, the plan will result in the removal of more than 4,000 square meters of excess space that will save about \$210,000 annually in operating and maintenance costs.

"The Raymond school solution ensures that students have the space and learning resources they need to learn, grow and realize their full potential," said Education Minister Gene Zwozdesky. "Everyone involved in the planning process is to be congratulated."

Details on the demolition and rebuilding of schools in Raymond will be finalized and jointly determined by the school board and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation officials.

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