

May 9, 2005

## **Canmore Catholic School construction given green light**

Edmonton... Catholic students who have been sharing space with students in a Canmore public school will soon have their own building thanks to government funding of \$11 million.

The Canmore Catholic School will open with a capacity for 490 students - welcoming students from both the Christ the Redeemer Catholic School Division and students from the Greater Southern Separate Catholic Francophone Regional School Board. Construction is set to begin as early as the end of the year, meaning students could begin classes in the new facility in late 2006.

"I'm pleased to confirm that Catholic parents, students and teachers in the Canmore area will soon see construction begin on their own facility," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "Canmore is a growing community and this new school will address current and future needs."

As a core school, the facility will be 5,170 square meters with the flexibility to accommodate future growth of up to 590 students.

The project costs include current construction estimates, furniture and equipment. Additional area has been included in the facility to accommodate the joint use between the two Catholic boards. The shared facility will allow for efficiency in plant operations and provide students with access to a larger variety of programs and facilities than would be possible with standalone schools.

"Education is a top priority for the Government of Alberta, and the Canmore Catholic School goes a long way in accommodating the needs of the Catholic and Francophone education communities," said Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Education. "As a result of this investment, students and teachers from three jurisdictions will benefit from the new construction and renovations."

"This is an exciting announcement for Canmore and as a longtime supporter of this project I am pleased the school will soon be a part of the community," said Janis Tarchuk, MLA for Banff-Cochrane.

Currently, students from three school boards share a single space within the Lawrence Grassi facility. Once the new Canmore Catholic School is open, renovations will begin on Lawrence Grassi Middle School to accommodate the remaining students from the Canadian Rockies School Division. Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation approved the renovation project in Budget 2004 and funding will be provided following review and approval of the project scope, which is currently being developed by Canadian Rockies and their consultants. The school division previously received \$100,000 to develop the scope of the project.

The Canmore Catholic School was originally looked at as a possible public-private partnership, or P3 project.

"After crunching the numbers, it became clear that for this particular project, the best way to move forward was using a more traditional funding approach," said Oberg. "The province will continue to evaluate each

possible P3 project individually, and final decisions will be made based on what is best for the project and what is best for Alberta taxpayers."

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