

August 31, 2006

\$303.3 million allocated for Phase II school infrastructure
'Schools for Tomorrow' plan to be completed later this fall

Edmonton... An additional \$303.3 million will be invested in 15 new schools and 6 new major preservation and modernization projects over the next four years, as well as the purchase of 130 new steel-framed modular classrooms this fiscal school year alone.

The investment will address health and safety concerns, community growth and enrollment changes, and will bring the province's funding for school infrastructure to nearly \$1.3 billion over the next three years.

"Today, I am announcing more major funding that addresses school boards' top priorities for school infrastructure needs, and ensures safe and healthy learning environments for our students," said Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Alberta Education. "Later this fall, I will complete the *Schools for Tomorrow* capital plan which will outline additional new schools and other school construction needs over the next five years."

In May 2006 and as part of Budget 2006, the Legislature approved \$258 million for the completion of previously announced projects and \$81 million for repairs and upgrades to schools within the Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) envelope. The total allocation for school capital projects (including IMR) now increases to \$572 million in the 2006/07 fiscal year and includes an additional \$41 million in cost escalation dollars to address current construction market conditions for previously announced projects, and \$72.3 million for year-one funding for new projects and modular classrooms. Today's new funding announcement comprises Phase II of government's ongoing provincial investment in school infrastructure. Phase I capital funding for school construction projects of \$207 million was announced in September 2005.

"Over one-half a billion dollars in new school capital announcements within the past year is a substantial investment in school infrastructure," said Ty Lund, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "This is targeted funding for projects that will alleviate some of the most pressing needs in the education system."

Construction details will be finalized and determined by local school boards in conjunction with officials from Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation. Details regarding funding for various Francophone school projects will be announced later this fall, as will modular classroom allocations.

"Expanding and improving Alberta's school infrastructure is a priority for government," said Barry McFarland, Associate Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation and Minister Responsible for Capital Planning. "This increased investment coincides with Alberta's ongoing planning for new capital projects and illustrates our commitment to meet the long-term learning needs of Alberta students."

"I am thrilled with this announcement," said Alberta School Boards Association President Maureen Kubinec. "Over \$300 million for school infrastructure is great news for Alberta students. I applaud the Minister for recognizing the scope of our school building needs and for his good work in obtaining these funds."

In July, 2006, Zwozdesky announced an additional \$61 million for operating support to school boards and \$119 million for IMR projects, bringing IMR funding to \$200 million for the 2006/07 fiscal year. An additional

\$9 million was allocated for Plant Operations and Maintenance (PO&M), bringing the total PO&M funding

to \$404 million for the 2006/07 fiscal year.

The Government of Alberta's support for Kindergarten to Grade 12, including \$169 million in property tax support to opted-out school boards, now totals about \$5.6 billion this fiscal year.

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Attachment

: School facility project details.

Media enquiries may be directed to:

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Backgrounder

August 31, 2006

\$303.3 million completes Phase II funding for school infrastructure

Phase II funding (\$303.3 million) for new projects will be allocated as follows:

	Location	School Board	Project Description	\$ in Millions
1.	Airdrie	Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School Division	New K-6 School - Airdrie Elementary Core School	\$14.5
2.	Anzac	Northland School Division	New 5-12 School - Anzac Community School	\$18.3
3.	Calgary	Calgary School Division	New K-6 School - Taradale Elementary School	\$14.7
4.	Calgary	Calgary School Division	New K-4 School - McKenzie Towne Elementary School	\$15.9

5.	Calgary	Calgary School Division	New K-4 School - Panorama Hills Elementary School	\$13.6
6.	Carstairs	Chinook's Edge School Division	New K-4 School	\$9.1
7.	Chestermere	Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School Division	New K-6 School - Chestermere Lake Elementary Core School	\$14.5
8.	Chestermere	Rocky View School Division	New K-6 School - Chestermere Elementary School	\$12.0
9.	Edmonton	Edmonton Public School Division	Major Preservation/Modernization Project - Balwin School (K-9)	\$11.4
10.	Edmonton	Edmonton Public School Division	Major Preservation/Modernization Project - Holyrood School (K-6)	\$8.0
11.	Edmonton	Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division	Major Preservation/Modernization Project - St. Francis Xavier High School	\$10.9
12.	Fort McMurray	Fort McMurray Public School Division	Major Preservation/Modernization Project - Westwood Community High School	\$9.2
13.	Fort McMurray	Fort McMurray Roman Catholic Separate School Division	Funds to initiate major study, planning & design of a new High School	\$1.0
14.	Fort McMurray	Fort McMurray Public School Board	Funds to initiate major study, planning & design of a new Junior High School	\$1.0
15.	Various Locations -	to be announced this Fall	Francophone School Projects	\$7.3
16.	Grande Prairie	Grande Prairie Public School Division	Major Preservation/Modernization Project - Alexander Forbes School (K-9)	\$9.0

17.	Grande Prairie	Grande Prairie Roman Catholic Separate School Division	New K-9 School in Grande Prairie - exact location TBA	\$17.5
18.	Grande Prairie	Grande Prairie Public School Board	New K-6 School - Crystal Lakes School	\$14.7
19.	Olds	Red Deer Catholic Separate School Board	New Starter School	\$4.0
20.	Slave Lake	Living Waters Roman Catholic Regional Division	New 7-12 School - St. Mary's of the Lake School	\$13.7
21.	St. Paul	East Central Francophone Education Region	Major Preservation/Modernization Project - Racette Junior High School	\$6.3
22.	Stony Plain	Parkland School Division	New Replacement High School - Memorial Composite High School	\$42.7
23.	Various locations	Various School Boards	130 new steel-framed modulars	\$34.0
			TOTAL	\$303.3

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