

November 2, 2006

\$34 million invested in steel-framed modular classrooms

Edmonton... Students and teachers will benefit from the Government of Alberta's commitment to addressing accommodation challenges through a \$34 million investment in additional classroom spaces.

The funding will result in the addition of 130 new, state-of-the-art, steel-framed modular classrooms and 70 portable classroom moves, bringing the government's total investment in modular and portable classrooms to \$73 million over the last two years.

"Our top priority is the health and safety of our students and teachers. The allocation of these additional steel-framed modular classrooms will alleviate some of the most pressing space and infrastructure needs throughout the province," said Education Minister Gene Zwozdesky.

The \$34 million investment is part of the \$303.3 million in funding announced on August 31, which included 15 new school and six major modernization projects over the next four years. In addition, \$7.3 million has been allocated for Francophone infrastructure projects throughout the province (further details will be released tomorrow).

The new steel-framed modular classroom, introduced in June 2005, is ideal for school expansion. The structure features: a steel frame (allowing for multiple moves and interchangeability among core schools); moisture-resistant construction; a lifespan 5 to 10 years longer than traditional portables; computer networking accessibility throughout the classroom; efficient and quiet heating that is compatible with a school monitoring system; drywall interior for a permanent classroom look and feel; large windows that allow maximum amounts of natural light; washrooms (in some cases); and connecting corridors (where required).

In January 2006, the government announced \$17 million for new modular classrooms and the relocation of existing portables to school jurisdictions. Since 2005/2006, government has invested in more than 300 new steel-framed modular classrooms.

Alberta Education will work with local school boards to coordinate the logistics for the distribution and delivery of the steel-framed modulars.

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Attachments:

Modular allocation list

Government's ongoing commitment to school infrastructure

Media enquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Background

\$34 million invested in steel-framed modular classrooms

130 modular classrooms

No. of Units	School Jurisdiction
8	Black Gold Regional Division
9	Calgary Public
21	Calgary Catholic
7	Charter Schools
3	Christ the Redeemer Catholic
11	Edmonton Catholic
6	Elk Island Catholic
3	Elk Island Public
7	Evergreen Catholic
2	Foothills School Division
9	Fort Vermilion School Division
6	Grande Prairie Catholic
5	Grande Prairie Public
1	Grande Yellowhead
1	Grasslands Regional Division
1	Holy Family Catholic
1	Holy Spirit Catholic
8	Lethbridge Public
8	Living Waters Catholic
1	Northland School Division

8	Parkland School Division
4	Rocky View School Division

70 portable classroom moves

No. of Units	School Jurisdiction
3	Black Gold Regional Division
5	Calgary Public
30	Calgary Catholic
2	Christ the Redeemer Catholic
1	Edmonton Catholic
6	Edmonton Public
1	Foothills School Division
4	Grande Prairie Public
6	Grasslands Regional Division
12	Rocky View School Division

Government's ongoing commitment to school infrastructure

The province has made school infrastructure a priority with a number of major announcements:

1. November 2006-\$34 million for 130 new modular classrooms (part of \$303.3 million).
2. November 2006-\$7.3 million for Francophone school projects (part of \$303.3 million).
3. August 2006-initial announcement of \$303.3 million, which included 15 new school and six modernization projects.
4. July 2006-additional \$119 million for Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal funding.
5. July 2006-additional \$9 million to a total of \$404 million for Plant Operations and Maintenance.
6. January 2006-\$17 million for new modular classrooms and relocation of existing portables.
7. September 2005-\$207 million for school infrastructure projects.
8. June 2005-government provided school boards across the province with 94 new modular classrooms and 72 portable classroom moves to address high enrollment needs.

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