



News Release

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Edmonton Catholic Schools disappointed with Government announcement

This afternoon the Alberta Government announced \$1.2 billion dollars in capital projects but did not allocate any new funding to Edmonton Catholic Schools. Edmonton Catholic Schools received \$4.2 million, which is the final installment of ongoing funding for the completion of Archbishop Oscar Romero High School.

“We are very disappointed by today’s announcement,” said Charlie Koester, Edmonton Catholic Schools Board of Trustees Chairperson.

Edmonton Catholic Schools identified \$12 million for the construction of a High School in Castledowns as its number one priority for the 2002-2005 Capital Plan.

“The community of Castledowns is in serious need of a high school,” Koester said. “Every year the Edmonton Catholic School District buses hundreds of students in the Castledowns area to other Catholic High Schools in the city. It’s important to note that it takes three years for a school to become a reality from a funding announcement until the school opens. This means that a High School in Castledowns is now a minimum of four years from opening if we do not receive funding for another year,” Koester went on to say.

Other projects in the Edmonton Catholic School District Capital Plan for 2002-2005 include major modernizations for St. Edmund; Archbishop O’Leary; Sir John Thompson and Archbishop MacDonald schools at a total cost of approximately \$14 million.

“We understand the Government has limited funding. We hope to meet with the Minister of Infrastructure in the next few weeks to understand the Government’s direction, and what Edmonton Catholic Schools needs to do to ensure future funding for these projects,” said Koester.

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