



EDMONTON  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

For immediate release,  
April 25, 2005

## News Release

### Capital Plan Priorities Shift for Board of Trustees

The construction of 32 portable classrooms over the next two years has become a top priority in the Edmonton Catholic Schools new Capital Plan. The Board of Trustees is responding to infrastructure pressures triggered by the government's three-year class size initiative. The construction was outlined in the district's 2006-2009 Capital Plan that was released at tonight's public Board meeting.

"We needed additional classroom space after hiring teachers for the provincial government's class size initiative and the district has now used all existing portable classrooms. We must begin the construction of new portables now in order to have enough space for students in September," said Debbie Engel, Board of Trustees Chairperson.

Modernizing four of eight Edmonton Catholic High Schools is a priority for 2006-2007 at a total cost of almost \$35 million. "St. Francis Xavier, Archbishop O'Leary and Archbishop MacDonald need extensive work, while a major modernization and expansion is essential for Louis St. Laurent's Fine Art Program," Engel went on to say.

The construction of an Academic School in Terwillegar for 400 students Grades 9 – 12 has been placed on the Capital Plan for 2006-2007 and is intended to meet the continued rapid growth in southwest Edmonton. The construction of a 300 student Elementary School in Terwillegar remains on the Capital Plan and is slated for 2007-2008.

Other highlights of the three-year plan include major modernizations to three Elementary Schools, two Elementary/Junior High Schools, a Junior High School and a K-12 French Immersion School.

"An area of real concern is the work that needs to be done on our high schools. With a high school utilization rate of 82%, we are also in need of additional space and government funding for the major modernizations would assist our district in continuing to provide high school students with a wonderful learning environment now and in the future," stated Dr. Dale Ripley, Superintendent of Edmonton Catholic Schools.

- 30 -

**For more information call:**

Lori Nagy  
Media Relations  
Edmonton Catholic Schools  
(780) 441-6189