



Francophone Regional Authority to Lease former Edmonton Catholic School

This September, approximately half of the former St. Patrick Elementary Catholic School (120 Ave. and 95 St.) will become a new public elementary school for the Greater North Central Francophone Regional Authority.

The Francophone Regional Authority will lease approximately half or 25,000 square feet of the former St. Patrick Elementary School that closed its doors at the end of June 2003.

“We are extremely pleased that this space will continue to serve as a learning environment for students in the Francophone Regional Authority,” said Debbie Engel, Chairperson of the Edmonton Catholic School Board of Trustees. “Our District has always shared a close relationship with the Francophone Authority, as Francophone schools were part of our District until the establishment of the Francophone Authority in 1995,” Debbie Engel went on to say.

The new Ecole francophone duNord Elementary will open in September of 2007 to approximately 80 to 100 students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 and will be the third public school for the Francophone Regional Authority and the second in Edmonton. With the opening of this school, the Authority will have nine Catholic schools and three public schools in Red Deer, Wainwright, Fort McMurray, Jasper, Legal, St. Albert and Edmonton. Enrolment as of September 30, 2006 was at 2,323 students.

“The Francophone Authority grew by 401 students or 21% in September so we needed to find additional space for our increasing enrolment and also to better serve students in north-central Edmonton,” said Henri Lemire, Superintendent of the Greater North Central Francophone Regional Authority. “This new site will also include a morning and afternoon ABC Headstart Program,” said Lemire.

St. Patrick Elementary School closed in June 2003 following several years of declining enrolments.

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