



Preservations and New School Construction are Priorities For the 2008-2011 Capital Plan

A total of 14 school preservation projects, six new schools and one major expansion/preservation project, are part of the Edmonton Catholic School District's 2008-2011 Capital Plan.

"New school construction is becoming critical in southwest and north Edmonton." said Board Chairperson Debbie Engel. Without construction of the three new schools in the southwest, our District's utilization rate will be over 100% by 2011 and north Edmonton will be facing a utilization of almost 90% without construction of the two schools for that area." added Engel.

The continued brisk growth in southwest Edmonton reflects the need for an Elementary/Junior High school in Windermere, a High School in Terwillegar, as well as an elementary school in Heritage Valleys. A new Elementary/Junior High School in Pilot Sound as well as a Junior High School in Castledowns Extension reflects a similar rapid growth in North Edmonton.

In addition, Louis St. Laurent Junior/Senior High School is desperately in need of construction of a Theatre to enhance the Fine Arts Program. Both the construction of a Theatre and renovations to support the expansion will ensure the success of Louis St. Laurent as one of two Fine Arts Schools in the Edmonton Catholic School District. The six new schools and the major expansion/preservation project are expected to cost just over \$75 million.

"New to the District's Capital Plan this year is an elementary/junior high school in Lewis Farms." said Superintendent Joan Carr. "We have been watching the steady growth in that area, and the utilization in West Edmonton is already at 93% and expected to rise dramatically in the next few years." added Superintendent Carr.

Of the 14 major preservation projects listed in the 2008 – 2011 Capital Plan, four are considered crucial for the following Edmonton Catholic Schools; Archbishop MacDonald, Archbishop O'Leary, St. Edmund Elementary/Junior High and J.H. Picard (K-12) school. The total cost for Preservation Projects for 2008-2011 is close to \$134 million.

With the 2008-2011 Capital Plan, Archbishop MacDonald has now been on the plan for eight years and this is the seventh year that Archbishop O'Leary High School has been on the Capital Plan.

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