

# NEWS *release*

**For immediate release**  
**May 24, 2007**

## **The City of Edmonton is in need of 26 new schools**

The public and Catholic school districts are working together in an attempt to build 26 new schools that both districts believe are desperately needed throughout Edmonton.

At a media conference this morning, the Board Chair of Edmonton Public Schools and the Board Chairperson of Edmonton Catholic Schools announced the two districts are open to the possibility of collaboration in order to have new schools built.

“The Minister of Education has indicated that school districts should develop partnerships and creative solutions to address the challenge of new school construction,” says Edmonton Public School Board Chair Bev Esslinger. “Our two districts are working together to support the Minister’s direction in this area, which is why we’re here today.”

“This is a ground-breaking initiative for Edmonton Catholic Schools,” says Edmonton Catholic Schools Board Chairperson Debbie Engel. “It marks the beginning of a new era for education that will benefit students served by both Boards. Both districts are working together for the good of all Edmontonians,” said Engel.

Staff from the two school districts will collaborate to examine the alignment of capital plan priorities, identify potential sites and consider the involvement of additional partners.

“The provincial government has encouraged us to explore alternatives regarding new school construction,” says Engel. “Our two jurisdictions are open to exploring any idea that will result in new schools being built where students live. We are hopeful our partnership will support the Minister in advocating for additional funding.”

“We will also invite the City of Edmonton, community leagues and other partners to consider how they might participate in future projects involving shared space,” says Esslinger. “It makes sense to consider how we can all work together to meet the needs of students and community members.”

- 30 -

### **For more information:**

Lori Nagy, Manager of Media & Public Relations  
Edmonton Catholic Schools  
(780) 441-6189

Lisa Austin, Director of Communications  
Edmonton Public Schools  
(780) 429-8043



EDMONTON  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS