
NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

MORE THAN \$144-MILLION INVESTMENT DELIVERS FULL-DAY K

VICTORIA – An investment of more than \$144 million and a new, six-step action plan will provide the 665 new classrooms needed to accommodate full-day kindergarten in September 2011, Premier Gordon Campbell and Education Minister Margaret MacDiarmid announced today.

“Research shows that a high quality, play-based kindergarten program develops the academic and social skills that help children succeed in school and in life,” said Premier Campbell. “These new facilities will help us meet our commitment to provide full-day kindergarten for five year olds to support children and working families.”

The six-step action plan has been put in place to guide the delivery of classroom space for the approximately 40,000 students expected to enter full-day kindergarten in 2011. The six steps include:

- 133 newly designed modular classrooms.
- New classroom space created by:
 - A new school in Langley
 - New school space within the Enerplex in Fort St. John.
- Additions to 21 schools in the Lower Mainland, Capital Regional District, Campbell River and Central Okanagan.
- Renovations to the resource centre next to Cataline Elementary school in Williams Lake.
- The re-opening of Anne McClymont Primary in Kelowna.
- Approximately \$10 million to furnish and equip classrooms, including the conversion of existing surplus classrooms to full-day kindergarten.

“This critical investment in early learning is an investment in our province’s future – our children,” said MacDiarmid. “In doing so, we are serious about finding efficiencies in every part of the education sector, which is why we have issued a proposal call for the modular construction project on behalf of districts to bulk purchase and reduce costs.”

A request for proposals for the construction of the modular classrooms was issued today. A centralized procurement and construction process will ensure cost efficiency and a common, high-quality standard for each new modular.

The \$144.5-million capital investment is being provided in addition to B.C.’s three-year, \$280-million commitment to implement full-day kindergarten for all eligible children by September 2011. Full-day kindergarten will be available for up to 50 per cent of kindergarten students in 2010 and for every five-year-old starting school in 2011.

Since 2001, the Province has spent more than \$1.7 billion to complete 80 new and replacement schools, 148 additions, 26 renovation projects and 22 site acquisitions across B.C. All new and replacement schools have been constructed to meet the latest seismic standards. By the end of 2009-10, the Province will have committed more than \$3.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across the province. As outlined by Premier Campbell, all new school construction projects will include B.C. wood in their construction whenever possible.

To view artist renderings of proposed modular units, visit http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/news/docs/2010/modular_school.pdf

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BACKGROUND

GROWING B.C. SCHOOLS THROUGH MODULAR DESIGN

B.C.'s newest modular classrooms are designed as colourful, warm, and naturally-lit spaces to enhance the teaching and learning environment. High ceilings and ample storage space for materials will be included in the new classrooms, which can be relocated or clustered as the student population changes over time. Approximately 50 per cent of the exterior walls will be finished with wood and 50 per cent of the interior wall and ceiling surfaces will have a visible wood finish to showcase the use of wood and meet the commitment of British Columbia's Wood First Act.

The new modular classrooms will be designed to meet sustainable construction standards. These classrooms will incorporate energy-efficient heating and cooling systems and will be built with high-performance building envelopes to minimize operating costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to the new modular classrooms, B.C.'s full-day kindergarten action plan includes school renovations, school additions, new and reopened schools:

School District	New Modulars		School Additions		Renovations		New or reopened schools	
	Sites	Classrooms	Sites	Classrooms	Sites	Classrooms	Sites	Classrooms
SD23 Central Okanagan	9	13	1	8			1	5
SD27 Cariboo-Chilcotin	1	1			1	2		
SD33 Chilliwack	3	3						
SD34 Abbotsford	3	3						
SD35 Langley	1	1					1	15
SD36 Surrey	20	26	6	32				
SD37 Delta	2	2						
SD38 Richmond	7	10	1	4				
SD39 Vancouver	5	5	3	6				
SD40 New Westminister	5	9						
SD41 Burnaby	4	5	1	8				
SD42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	2	2						
SD43 Coquitlam	9	11	2	9				
SD45 West Vancouver	2	2						
SD46 Sunshine Coast	1	1						
SD48 Sea to Sky	1	1						
SD58 Nicola-Similkameen	1	1						
SD60 Peace River North	2	2					1	8
SD62 Sooke	6	8	4	19				
SD63 Saanich			2	4				

SD67 Okanagan-Skaha	2	3						
SD 71 Comox Valley	5	8						
SD72 Campbell River	5	9	1	2				
SD78 Fraser Cascade	1	1						
SD79 Cowichan Valley	5	6						
Total:	102	133	21	92	1	2	3	28

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