



Eastern School District

Suite 601, Atlantic Place
215 Water Street

St. John's, NL A1C 6C9

Tel: (709) 758-2371

Fax: (709) 758-2706

Website: www.esdnl.ca

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Eastern School Board Applauds Government's Funding Announcement

(February 19, 2009, St. John's, NL) The Eastern School Board is applauding yesterday's Provincial Government funding announcement of approximately \$70 million that is targeted for major school projects in the Eastern School District.

"The Board is extremely pleased that the Provincial Government has approved this funding for some of our top priorities," says Milton Peach, Chair, Eastern School Board. "This funding will allow us to continue to address, in a significant manner, aging infrastructure and capacity issues that were identified through the Board's public consultations and multi-year planning process."

Yesterday's announcement will see a replacement school for St. Teresa's Elementary, St. John's and Davis Elementary, Carbonear, and at least seven extensions to address capacity issues in growth areas of the St. John's Metro area.

The Provincial Government had previously approved \$80 million for new schools and extensions in the Eastern School District, including new schools for Placentia and Torbay and two new schools for Paradise. Yesterday's announcement of \$70 million brings the approximate total project funding allocated to Eastern School District from the Provincial Government's Infrastructure Strategy to \$150 million.

"We appreciate Government's focus on education in the last three annual budgets, and in particular, for acknowledging our District's urgent need to address growing school populations," says Peach. "The Board is eager to see these major projects begin as soon as possible and we look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Education in response to our funding requests."

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For further information:
Mary Tucker, ABC
Manager, Communications
Eastern School District
Tel: 758-2371