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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Eastern School Board Pleased with Budget 2010 Funding Announcements

(March 30, 2010, St. John's, NL) The Eastern School Board is extremely pleased with the Provincial Government's 2010 Budget announcement regarding new and ongoing infrastructure issues targeted for the Eastern School District of approximately \$36 million.

"We appreciate that the Provincial Government recognizes the infrastructure needs of the Eastern School District and continues to fund the Board's priorities as presented in the District's 2010 pre-budget consultation and multi-year plan," says Milton Peach, Chair, Eastern School Board. "A new high school for the west end of St. John's has been a main priority of the District for a number of years. In addition, a new school to replace Virginia Park Elementary, St. John's, and building upgrades and an extension for both Roncalli Elementary in St. John's and Balbo Elementary in Shoal Harbour were priorities for the Board. This new funding will go a long way to address aging infrastructure issues for schools in the District."

The Provincial Government previously committed approximately \$150 million from the Provincial Government's Infrastructure Strategy for new schools for Placentia, Torbay, Carbonear, St. John's and two new schools for Paradise, as well as a number of school extensions to address capacity issues in growth areas of the St. John's metro region.

"We are extremely pleased with Government's response to our funding requests" says Peach. "Over the past few years, we have experienced significant enhancements to our infrastructure and this means that our students are benefiting directly from Government's investment in education."

In addition to infrastructure initiatives specific to Eastern School District, the Board is also very appreciative of the continuation of the class size cap to Grade 6 and Grade 9, the increase in the number of student assistant hours by more than 25,000 hours per year, and the increase in the repair and maintenance budget for all school districts.

"Again, for the third budget year, Government has prioritized education as a significant investment in our children throughout the province," said Peach.