

If you are concerned about the Calgary Board of Education only receiving funding to build one public school, please read through the information below and know that the responsibility for this funding decision lies with the Provincial Government. If you are concerned, you may wish to contact your representative with the Province of Alberta.

ONLY ONE SCHOOL FOR THE CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION?

On September 30, 2005, the Board of Trustees of the Calgary Board of Education sent the following letter to:

Honourable Ralph Klein, Premier
MLA, Calgary-Elbow
307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B7

Honourable Shirley McClellan
Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance
224 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B7

Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg
Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation
408 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B7

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Minister of Education
228 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B7

Dear Premier Klein, Mrs. McClellan, Dr. Oberg and Mr. Zwozdesky:

The Board of Trustees of the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) is extremely disappointed with recent new school funding announcements. While our Board welcomes funding for one new school in Shawnessy/Somerset from our 2005-2008 Capital Plan list, this announcement falls woefully short of addressing the CBE's pressing infrastructure needs.

Many new communities in Calgary are without a public school. Parents and taxpayers rightly expect that students can be educated in public schools in their communities. The absence of such schools means more CBE students must ride the bus, which puts a further strain on transportation budgets.

By not appropriately funding new schools, a situation has been created that pits community against community, as each group of parents advocates for a new school.

In May 2005, our Board submitted a Three-Year School Capital Plan that included a list of eleven schools and two modernizations to be funded in the first year of the plan. Many of these projects have been prioritized for more than two years. CBE parents are very distressed that no new school funding announcements were made last year, and this year, funding for only one new school, tied to a budget surplus, was announced long after the CBE's most recent Three-Year Capital Plan was submitted.

Despite educating almost 17% of the students in this province, the CBE received only 6.5% of the total infrastructure money recently announced to support new school construction.

In recent years, the Province has moved away from its historic approach of funding new school construction through annual infrastructure budgets to relying on the allocation of unpredictable surplus funds. Such an approach leaves Calgary parents and communities wondering if they will ever have a school built.

The CBE requires a rational long-range provincial plan to address our long-term capital needs. We need to address the backlog of school construction that has resulted from Calgary's tremendous growth, and the lack of provincial funding in the past two years.

As such, we respectfully urge the Provincial Government to work swiftly to develop and implement a predictable funding strategy in accordance with the CBE's capital plan that will result in the construction of desperately needed new public schools in Calgary.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,



Gordon Dirks
Chair

cc: All Calgary MLAs
Dr. Kevin Taft, Leader of the Alberta Liberal Official Opposition
Mr. Jack Flaherty, Alberta Liberal Education Critic
Mr. Brian Mason, Leader, New Democratic Party Opposition Leader
Mr. Paul Hinman, MLA, Alberta Alliance Party Opposition

[Click here to see CBE's Key Facts re New School Construction](#)