

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2007EDU0125-001198  
Sept. 27, 2007

Ministry of Education

### NEW SCHOOL FOR GROWING KELOWNA STUDENT POPULATION

KELOWNA – The Province has approved construction of a new \$13.6-million elementary school in the Mission Hills area of Kelowna to meet the demands of the growing number of children in the area, Kelowna-Mission MLA Sindi Hawkins announced today.

“We have seen the number of students increasing, and this area continues to grow as it is attractive to families,” said Hawkins. “Now is the time to plan ahead and ensure each student has the room to learn and grow in their own neighbourhood.”

Overall enrolment in the area’s elementary schools is currently more than 180 students over capacity, and that number is expected to increase. The new school will be designed to accommodate 80 kindergarteners and 350 elementary students.

“We’ve always maintained that where enrolment numbers warrant a new school then it will be built,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “That’s clearly the case in this part of the Okanagan, and we’re following through on that commitment.”

The new school will contain ground source heat and cooling, with other green initiatives considered as the design process proceeds. The green features of this school will support the Province’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020. Construction on the new school is expected to begin early next year.

“Not only will this new school make room for new and current students,” said Moyra Baxter, chair of the Central Okanagan Board of Education. “It will ensure they are learning in a world-class, environmentally-friendly atmosphere.”

Since 2001, the Province has invested \$39.5 million in the Central Okanagan school district to complete 10 capital projects. During the same period, the Province spent over \$1.1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 35 replacements, 144 additions and 25 renovations projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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