



For Immediate Release
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Ontario Government Renovating School in Tobermory

Province gives Approval to Proceed to tender for a renovation to St. Edmunds Public School

As part of Ontario's ongoing efforts to build and improve local schools, the province provided the Bluewater District School Board with an Approval to Proceed to tender for a renovation to St. Edmunds Public School. This is supported by an investment of \$1.7 million, which includes additional funding of \$1.2 million.

The Government of Ontario is delivering more than \$26.6 billion in education funding for the 2022-23 school year, including an increase of over \$600 million this September, which is the highest investment in public education in Ontario's history. Investing in the province's schools is an integral part of Ontario's *Plan to Catch Up*, which is squarely focused on the priorities of parents and includes five key components:

- Kids being back in the classroom, on time with a full school experience that includes extracurriculars like sports, band and field trips;
- Investing more than \$175 million for enhanced tutoring support programs delivered by school boards and community partners, with a focus on reading, writing and math;
- Updating the curriculum to prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow, including opportunities in the skilled trades;
- Providing more money to build schools and improve education; and
- Allocating \$90 million – the highest amount in Ontario history, and a 420 per cent increase from 2017-18 – to support student mental health.

Once completed, this project will deliver 39 child care spaces for local parents. The investment is part of the Ontario government's commitment to provide \$14 billion to support school construction over 10 years. Since 2018, the government has approved nearly 200 school construction projects and the development of more than 300 child care and education building-related projects, of which, more than 100 are actively under construction.

"The funding for renewal work and renovations at St. Edmunds Public School is great news for our community," said Rick Byers, MPP for Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound. "This investment will ensure families and students have access to a quality learning environment in the years ahead."

"Our government is investing \$14 billion over ten years to build new schools, improve existing facilities and create child care spaces to ensure young people can reach their full potential," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "By renovating the state-of-the-art St. Edmunds Public School as well as investing in tutoring and mental health supports for the year ahead, we are getting students in Tobermory back on track now and well into the future. While we make progress renovating St. Edmunds Public School to support hard-working parents, we remain committed to keeping students in class this September in more normal classrooms with extra curriculars, sports, and clubs."

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“Under Premier Ford’s leadership, we’re building more state-of-the-art schools to support the needs of Ontario’s students, families and growing communities. By investing in innovative and modern learning spaces, we’re ensuring students have access to the quality education that will provide them with lifelong skills and education in a safe and healthy environment,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “These investments are one of the ways we’re delivering on our promise to build Ontario, with an infrastructure budget of more than \$148 billion over the next decade.”

Highlights of the project include:

- 39 new child care spaces
- 2 new child care rooms

St. Edmunds Public School is located at 21 Centennial Drive in Tobermory.

Quick Facts:

- Since 2018, the Ontario government has invested over \$2.0 billion in capital projects in education, including 100 new schools, 88 additions and renovations to existing facilities and 6,410 new licensed child care spaces.
- For 2022-23, the province is providing school boards with \$1.4 billion in funding to revitalize and renew aged building systems and components.
- The governments of Canada and Ontario are providing \$656.5 million in funding for critical infrastructure projects to protect students and staff from COVID-19 in the province’s schools through the COVID-19 Resilience stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

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