

---

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2017EDUC0014-000153  
Jan. 26, 2017

Ministry of Education  
Surrey School District

### **\$217 million, project board to speed construction of up to 5,200 seats in Surrey**

SURREY – The B.C. government is targeting the construction of up to 5,200 new student seats in Surrey, thanks to today's commitment of \$217 million for capital projects over the next three years to be planned and led by a new joint executive project board with the Surrey School District.

"Young families are moving to Surrey because it's a great place to call home in British Columbia's strong economy. We owe it to those families and their kids to make sure we are working together to build new school spaces for them as quickly as possible," said Education Minister Mike Bernier. "I expect this new project team to dig in hard and develop plans to use the \$217-million investment to get shovels in the ground for up to 5,200 new student spaces as soon as possible."

Bernier announced the additional funding and new project board today at the Surrey Board of Education office, alongside Surrey School Board chairperson Shawn Wilson. They also signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the terms of reference for the Surrey Executive Project Board.

"Our board has been working very hard with the Ministry of Education to address the unique needs in the Surrey School District driven by our incredible growth," said Surrey School District board chairperson Shawn Wilson. "Trustees want to break the pattern of perpetual pursuit of classroom spaces, and we're proud to now have this significant capital funding and the dedicated, partnership project office that will help get us there."

Job 1 for the project team will be to identify new schools or school expansions as quickly as possible so the proposals can be brought forward for provincial approval. That planning will involve defining the size of projects, as well as timing new school development to align with residential development.

"With this new project office, the City of Surrey is looking forward in continuing our partnership with the school board to deliver more schools for students in Surrey," said Surrey mayor Linda Hepner. "Today's provincial funding commitment will help address the critical need of new schools for our rapidly growing community."

Staff from the Surrey School District, Partnerships BC, and the Ministry of Education will make up the executive project board. The project team will include a project director, financial manager, city liaison, project managers and project technicians. The board may also consult engineering, planning, environmental and architectural experts as needed.

The new funding that will be part of Budget 2017 is on top of the \$100 million announced last year to build a new secondary and elementary school, expand three elementary schools and

purchase land for a future elementary school in Surrey, creating up to 2,700 new seats.

All of the funding along with the new project team will help reduce the number of portables in Surrey.

The B.C. Government is making record investments in modern, safe infrastructure projects throughout the province – and in doing so, these construction projects are creating high paying, family supporting jobs. These investments are possible because of our strong fiscal plan – and through each, we are Building a Strong B.C. – together.

**Quick Facts:**

- Since 2013-14 about 6,700 new student spaces have been opened or approved in Surrey.
- Since 2001, the Surrey School District student population has seen about a 20% increase in student enrolment, from 58,648 students to an estimated 71,115 in 2016-17.
- In addition to today’s announcement, government has committed almost \$529 million for 70 capital and seismic projects and 14 site acquisitions in Surrey since 2001.

**Learn More:**

Surrey School District: [www.surreyschools.ca](http://www.surreyschools.ca)

Capital Planning: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/resource-management/capital-planning>

A backgrounder follows.

**Media Contacts:**

Government Communications and Public  
Engagement  
Ministry of Education  
250 356-5963

Surrey School District  
Communication Services Manager  
Doug Strachan  
604 595-6189

---

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

---

## BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release  
2017EDUC0014-000153  
Jan. 26, 2017

Ministry of Education  
Surrey School District

### **Snapshot of Surrey school project completed, under construction, and committed**

Since 2013, almost 6,700 new student spaces have been opened or approved in Surrey. Below is a snapshot of capital projects completed, underway or approved during this time.

#### **Projects completed since 2013:**

The following projects, worth almost \$70 million were completed and created 1,980 elementary and 500 secondary spaces in Surrey since 2013.

- Goldstone Park Elementary – new school – 555 new seats – \$14.7 million
- Katzie Elementary – new school – 605 new seats – \$14.3 million
- Fraser Heights Secondary – addition – 200 new seats – \$7.1 million
- Panorama Ridge Secondary – addition – 300 new seats – \$8.4 million
- Sunnyside Elementary – replacement – 450 new seats – \$14.9 million
- Adams Road Elementary – addition – 240 new seats – \$5.6 million (SD 36 funding)
- Morgan Elementary – addition – 90 new seats – \$2.3 million (SD 36 funding)
- Rosemary Heights Elementary – addition – 40 new seats – \$1.5 million (SD 36 funding)

#### **Construction underway:**

- Salish Secondary – new school – 1,500 seats – \$55 million

#### **Land purchased for new school:**

- future new elementary school in Port Kells – \$9.6 million

#### **Projects approved and nearing the start of construction:**

- Sullivan, Woodward Hill, and Panorama Park Elementary – expansions – up to 600 new seats total – \$11.9 million
- Grandview Heights Secondary – new school – 1,500 new seats – \$60.6 million (includes Surrey School District funding)
- Clayton North Elementary – new school – 605 new seats – \$22.3 million (includes Surrey School District and local funding)

#### **Media Contacts:**

Government Communications and Public  
Engagement  
Ministry of Education  
250 356-5963

Surrey School District  
Communication Services Manager  
Doug Strachan  
604 595-6189

