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Ministry of Education

POMEROY SPORTS CENTRE TO HOUSE EIGHT CLASSROOMS

FORT ST. JOHN - The Province is investing \$5.7 million to renovate vacant space at the new Pomeroy Sports Centre that will add eight new secondary classrooms to the Peace River North school district, Peace River North MLA Pat Pimm announced today.

"Housing secondary classrooms at the Pomeroy Sports Centre is a creative solution for the school district and will open up student spaces at other schools in the area," said Pimm. "Having classrooms in the centre will also offer exciting opportunities for students to explore athletics at this state-of-the-art facility."

In order to make room in district elementary schools for full-day kindergarten programs, Grade 7 students will move up to junior-secondary schools once the new classrooms at the Pomeroy Sports Centre are completed. The eight new classrooms will accommodate 200 students in grades 8-12. Construction on the new classrooms is scheduled to begin in April 2011 and be completed for September 2011.

"We are happy to have been able to work with the City of Fort St. John and the Province to find a workable solution to provide full-day kindergarten throughout the district," said Peace River North board of education chair Gordon Anderson. "This project has given us the flexibility to look at our needs and determine how best to enhance learning opportunities for every student."

As part of the Province's \$144.5-million capital commitment to full-day kindergarten, the Peace River North school district is also receiving funding for two new modular classrooms at two school sites.

"As projects move forward throughout B.C. to create nurturing spaces for full-day kindergarten programs, it is nice to see community partners, like those in Fort St. John, coming together to find solutions that will

benefit students," said Education Minister George Abbott.

Modular classrooms are unique learning centres that are bright and open, with high ceilings and windows for plenty of natural light and cross-ventilation and are a permanent, versatile solution with the same lifespan as a standard school classroom. These new classrooms will be constructed to meet the commitments of B.C.'s Wood First Act and will include high-performance building envelopes to improve energy efficiency and reduce operating costs.

Since 2001, the Province has invested \$13.5 million in capital projects in the Peace River North school district for additions to North Peace Secondary, Duncan Cran Elementary and Prespatou Elementary-Secondary schools. During that same period, the Province has also spent more than \$1.7 billion to complete 80 new and replacement schools, 148 additions, 26 renovation projects and 22 site acquisitions across B.C. The \$144.5-million full-day kindergarten capital investment, first announced in June 2010, is being provided in addition to B.C.'s three-year, \$280-million commitment to implement full-day kindergarten. Full-day kindergarten is available for at least 50 per cent of kindergarten students in 2010 and for every eligible five-year-old starting school in 2011.

By the end of 2010-11, the Province will have committed more than \$3.9 billion in school capital and maintenance projects throughout B.C.

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