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**Subject:** NR: \$4.4M FOR NINE NEW CLASSROOMS IN COQUITLAM SCHOOLS  
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NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

\$4.4M FOR NINE NEW CLASSROOMS IN COQUITLAM SCHOOLS

COQUITLAM - The Province is investing close to \$4.4 million to add 205 student spaces for full-day kindergarten and elementary enrolment in the

Coquitlam school district, Port Moody-Coquitlam MLA Iain Black and Coquitlam-Burke Mountain MLA Douglas Horne announced today.

"Aspenwood and Bramblewood Elementary schools will receive a total of nine new classrooms, which will help the schools meet the demand for full-day kindergarten and elementary enrolment in these neighbourhoods,"

said Black. "The value in providing full-day kindergarten programs comes from ensuring all children in B.C. have a strong foundation for learning, because that will help lead them to future success in school."

Aspenwood Elementary will receive three classrooms for full-day kindergarten and three for elementary students in grades 1-5. The new classrooms will add space for 60 kindergarten and 75 elementary students.

Bramblewood Elementary will receive one new full-day kindergarten classroom and two classrooms for elementary students in grades 1-5. The new classrooms will add space for 20 kindergarten and 50 elementary students.

The first stage of construction is scheduled to begin in December 2010 and the additions are expected to be completed by September 2011.

"These additions will create a total of 80 full-day kindergarten and 125 elementary student spaces in the Coquitlam school district," said Horne.

"This government is working with school districts throughout B.C. to ensure space is being provided where needed for full-day kindergarten and - in the case of additions - to maximize the number of classrooms in

order to address enrolment demands in other grades as well."

The Coquitlam school district will also receive 11 modular classrooms, which will be installed at nine school sites to accommodate students in the fall of 2011. This is part of the six-step action plan that has been put in place to guide the delivery of classroom space for the approximately 40,000 students expected to enter full-day kindergarten across B.C. in 2011.

"The additions and modular classrooms bring Coquitlam one step closer to being able to offer full-day kindergarten to our youngest students," said Coquitlam board of education chair Melissa Hyndes. "These new classrooms will give our schools the space they need to provide full-day kindergarten to our youngest learners while also addressing the needs of students in other grades."

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.

"We know that providing early learning programs for young children is essential for the development of academic and social skills they need to succeed in school and in life," said Education Minister Margaret MacDiarmid. "These new facilities will help us meet our commitment to provide full-day kindergarten programs throughout B.C. in September."

Since 2001, 20 capital and seismic projects worth more than \$79.4 million have been completed in the Coquitlam school district. This includes \$27.5 million for Heritage Woods Secondary school, which opened in 2004.

During that same period, the Province has 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. All new and replacement schools have been constructed to meet the latest seismic standards.

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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