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COQUITLAM STARTS KINDERGARTEN CONSTRUCTION

COQUITLAM - The first shovel of dirt was officially moved as two school construction projects began today in Coquitlam adding 205 more student spaces at area schools, Port Moody-Coquitlam MLA Iain Black and Coquitlam-Burke Mountain MLA Douglas Horne announced.

"In the fall of 2011, Coquitlam will have space for all of the districts' new full-day kindergarten students thanks to the additions being done at Aspenwood and Bramblewood elementary schools," said Black. "This is a growing area of the school district and the Province's investment of \$4.4 million to add an additional nine classrooms will help them accommodate this valuable program comfortably."

Aspenwood Elementary

- \* three classrooms for full-day kindergarten
- \* three classrooms for elementary students in grades 1-5
- \* adds 60 kindergarten and 75 elementary student spaces
- \* new total capacity: 525 students (k-5)

Bramblewood Elementary

- \* one new full-day kindergarten classroom
- \* two classrooms for elementary students in grades 1-5
- \* adds 20 kindergarten and 50 elementary students spaces
- \* new total capacity: 385 students (k-5)

"Our community is also receiving 11 modular classrooms, which will be installed at nine different schools throughout the district before this fall," said Horne. "This new classroom space is part of the six-step action plan that has been put in place to accommodate the approximately 40,000 students expected to enter full-day kindergarten across B.C. for the 2011-12 school year."

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.

"We are so glad to see construction begin on these two school expansion projects," said Coquitlam board of education chair Melissa Hyndes. "Over the next seven months, we look forward to watching the preparation for full-day kindergarten at all our elementary school sites."

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.

-30-

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