

From: [Hawryluk, Kerri PAB:EX](#)
To: [Hawryluk, Kerri PAB:EX;](#)
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NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education
School District No. 40 (New Westminster)

B.C.'S FIRST MODULAR CLASSROOM DELIVERED

NEW WESTMINSTER - The New Westminster school district received a very large gift from the Province early this morning that will soon serve as a bright and open learning space for students, Education Minister Margaret MacDiarmid announced.

"Herbert Spencer Elementary is the first school in B.C. to receive their new modular classroom for full-day kindergarten," said MacDiarmid. "This is an exciting milestone on our journey towards making full-day kindergarten a reality for every five-year-old this September."

The Province signed a \$28.5-million contract with Shelter Industries to design, construct and install 138 modular classrooms in 25 B.C. school districts. School districts are receiving additional funding to cover the costs of site preparation, installation, equipment and supplies for each of their new classrooms.

"The work to prepare the site for this modular classroom was finished very quickly because the majority of the project was completed by our school district maintenance staff," said board of education chair Michael Ewen. "They did an excellent job and now we are the first district in the province to have a new modular kindergarten classroom."

Herbert Spencer will receive two more modular classrooms later this month. All of the new modular classrooms will be ready for occupancy by September 2011.

"We wanted to get ahead of the game and have these classrooms assembled as early as possible," said Doug Templeton, director of facilities. "We know that teachers need time to get into the classrooms to setup and make preparations for the start of classes, so we wanted to make sure we respect that need and complete this project sooner rather than later."

The City of New Westminster's Engineering and Building Department staff worked with the school district on site planning for each of the schools. New Westminster will receive a total of nine modular classrooms:

- * Herbert Spencer Elementary - three classrooms
- * Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary - two classrooms
- * Queen Elizabeth Elementary - two classrooms
- * Lord Kelvin Elementary - one classroom
- * FW Howay Elementary - one classroom.

Modular classrooms are being provided as part of a \$144.5-million capital 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.

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.

Photographs and video footage from the modular delivery can be viewed at

ftp://ftp.multimedia.gov.bc.ca/2011Feb/mod_class/

Watch B.C.'s new modular classrooms being built and see how the Province

is creating learning spaces for full-day kindergarten at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/capitalplanning/fdk_modular/

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Media Contacts:

Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

Brian Sommerfeldt
Secretary Treasurer
School District #40 (New Westminster)
604 517-6320

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