

NEWS RELEASE
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Ministry of Education

Enderby rings in new year with new school

ENDERBY - Local students celebrated the start of 2012 with Education Minister George Abbott at a ceremony to officially open the new M.V. Beattie Elementary school today.

This new environmentally friendly school continues to offer a StrongStart BC program along with a new Neighbourhood Learning Centre. The centre will bring together community, youth and sports organizations, which may include a food bank, adult fitness and RCMP programs.

The new \$12.4-million school will have space for 275 students as well as 40 spaces for full-day kindergarten. The current enrolment at M.V. Beattie is 227 students from kindergarten to Grade 7, leaving plenty of space for growth for students in this tight-knit community.

The new school replaces the former M.V. Beattie school, which served Enderby and the surrounding area for nearly 100 years.

Quotes:

Minister of Education George Abbott -

"This new school will not only provide a modern learning environment for students, it will also serve the community as a centre of activity providing programs for families and young learners. The StrongStart BC program and new Neighbourhood Learning Centre will ensure children and their families have the support they need to succeed at school and in life."

North Okanagan - Shuswap board of education chair Bobbi Johnson -

"We are thrilled to open this new school as our previous school was nearly 100 years old and in need of replacement. This new school will be more welcoming, bright and supportive of 21st-century learning."

Quick Facts:

* Since 2001, the Province has invested more than \$9.2 million in the North Okanagan-Shuswap school district.

* In addition, the Province is investing more than \$1.4 million for additional space for full-day kindergarten.

* The new school has been built to LEED Gold environmental standards.

* Over the past 10 years, government has spent more than \$1.8 billion to complete 83 new and replacement schools, 149 school additions, 26 renovations and 22 site acquisitions throughout British Columbia.

Learn More:

To learn about BC's Education Plan, visit: www.bcedplan.ca

For information about M.V. Beattie, visit:
<http://www.mvb.sd83.bc.ca/index.html>

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