
NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

REVELSTOKE HOME TO FIRST NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRES

REVELSTOKE – The first two Neighbourhood Learning Centres will come to life at the new Revelstoke Secondary school and the community’s new elementary school, Premier Gordon Campbell announced today.

The Neighbourhood Learning Centre at the new Revelstoke Secondary school will include a community theatre and coordinated health services aimed at vulnerable teens. The second Neighbourhood Learning Centre will consist of an early learning hub, medical services and acrobatic centre at the community’s new elementary school.

“Our vision for the future of education in British Columbia is one where educational services and community resources are brought together under one roof to better support families and learners,” said Premier Campbell. “Neighbourhood Learning Centres are an innovative and creative way for school districts to partner with community organizations to offer a variety of services that benefit the entire community.”

Revelstoke Secondary will include a 275-seat theatre and will offer co-ordinated health services for vulnerable teens that include an on-site social worker, mental health services and substance abuse prevention.

Revelstoke Elementary will become B.C.’s first early-learning hub designed to provide seamless services for children from infancy to school age. The early-learning hub will include: a StrongStart BC program, two state-of-the-art childcare centres, an early-learning library and a child-care resource and referral program. The school will become the new home of programs that provide medical, dental, literacy and community services to students and their families. Another exciting feature of this school will be the addition of an acrobatic centre; twenty per cent of Revelstoke’s student population participates in acrobatics.

“I would like to commend the Revelstoke school district for bringing community partners together in designing these schools with the needs of the community in mind,” said Premier Campbell. “Schools serve as the perfect place for us to focus our attention on lifelong learning, from the needs of our youngest learners to those in the K-12 system, to providing families with the important services they need at one central location.”

The provincial government had previously committed almost \$48 million to replace the existing Revelstoke Secondary school and to build a new elementary school. The addition of space for Neighbourhood Learning Centres will bring the total to \$53 million. The school district plans to begin construction in the spring of 2010, with Revelstoke Elementary expected to open in the fall of 2011 and Revelstoke Secondary in early 2012. All school districts are now being encouraged to move towards this inclusive approach to planning the use of new school space and including elements of Neighbourhood Learning Centres in all new and replacement schools.

“We are thrilled to be the first school district in B.C. to have our plans approved for our Neighbourhood Learning Centre model schools,” said Revelstoke Board of Education chair Alan Chell. “This project will enhance our district’s and our community’s exceptional early learning services that support students and their families and add greatly to our educational, cultural and recreational opportunities. These state-of-the-art facilities will benefit our community tremendously for years to come.”

Since 2001, the Province has spent more than \$1.5 billion to complete 75 new and replacement schools, 147 additions, 26 renovation projects and 20 site acquisitions across B.C. All new and replacement schools have been constructed to meet the latest seismic standards.

By the end of 2009/10, the Province will have committed more than \$3.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across the province. All new school construction projects will include B.C. wood in their construction whenever possible and will be built to LEED Gold or equivalent standards for energy efficiency.

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