

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2008

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RE: September 30 Enrolments

It's official! Rocky View Schools' (RVS) September 30 enrolment counts prove the jurisdiction is the fastest growing school jurisdiction in the Calgary Metro Area (CMA).

Enrolments are up 575 students over last year's September 30 count, bringing total enrolment in the jurisdiction for the 2008-2009 school year to 15,886 students.

Since 1986, RVS has doubled in size and is projected to increase by 50 percent over the next 10 years.

"Our jurisdiction's planning department anticipates we will grow by an additional 2,900 students by 2013 and almost double by 2020 to approximately 23,000 students," said Superintendent of Schools Greg Bass. "This past spring, these projections were confirmed by Alberta Education's Workforce Planning Branch."

According to Director of Facilities Planning John Wheatley, Rocky View is the fastest growing school board in the Calgary Metro Area.

"The rate of growth in Rocky View Schools was 3.76 percent over last year, while the recent enrolment announcement of the Calgary boards indicated a growth of less than 1 percent for the public school system and 1.5 percent for the Catholic district," he said. "RVS growth rate continues to demonstrate that the communities around Calgary absorb more than their share of the growth in the Calgary Metro area. The area served by Rocky View Schools represents 8.5 percent of the population in the CMA, but 18 percent of new residents move to our jurisdiction."

Despite Rocky View's recent and expected growth, Board Chair Sylvia Eggerer explained that the jurisdiction has only received approval for two new schools, one in Chestermere (open 2008) and the second in Langdon (estimated to open in 2012).

"Unlike growth in the large urban areas where there is a significant number of underutilized facilities, growth in Rocky View Schools adds to facilities already operating at high utilization rates," she explained. "We need to start working on nine new schools over the next three years so that we can accommodate the population growth in our division."

In illustration Eggerer pointed to Nose Creek Elementary School in Airdrie, which opened in the spring 2007. Over last year's student count, enrolment is up by 64 percent.

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**ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS
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“Nose Creek Elementary School already has four modular units and is waiting for two more this fall. Similarly Rainbow Creek Elementary School will open this fall in Chestermere and will require modular classrooms for the 2009-2010 school year.

“As one of the fastest growing school boards in Alberta, we hope to receive word from the province that we will receive additional schools to meet the needs of our growing student population.

“At this point in time, it’s wait and see,” Eggerer said.

Rocky View Schools provides public school education to resident students living in areas east, north and west of Calgary, including Airdrie, the fastest growing city in Canada, and Chestermere, the fastest growing town in Canada. Rocky View Schools has a virtual school, learning connection centres in Cochrane, Airdrie and Chestermere, and four colony schools in addition to thirty-four regular schools.

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