



ALBERTA
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Red Deer-North*

March 10, 2023

Dear Parents & Guardians of Rocky View Public School Division,

Last week, the Government of Alberta released its annual budget, and as the Minister of Education, I wanted to share directly with you our plan to set your children up for lifelong success by investing in new spaces for the Rocky View School Division.

Our government announced 58 priority school projects across the province last week including 4 for Rocky View School Division. In fact, Rocky View School Division received funding for their top 4 priority requests – these requests include design funding for a new K-8 school in southwest Airdrie, and planning funding for a new grades 9-12 School in Airdrie, a new K-9 school in Chestermere, and a new K-8 school in Cochrane. The level of readiness for projects on the capital list is determined in part by our 10-step capital process which was approved by the auditor general.

In previous capital budgets Rocky View received a new 7-12 school in Langdon (announced in 2019) and an addition and modernization of Bow Valley High School in Cochrane (announced 2022). The six capital projects for Rocky View School Division, that our government has invested in since 2019, will create approximately 6, 625 new and modernized spaces when complete.

This year marks a change to our capital process as we have clearly identified key activities that school boards need to complete before full construction funding will be provided. The reality is, in the past, governments have committed full funding for projects that simply were not ready for construction. As a result, the time between announcement and build would run between 3-5 years. This could have been prevented. If projects are truly ready for construction, as they will be if they complete these key activities, builds should only take approximately 18-24 months.

I want to be clear; school authorities are **not** required to complete every stage (pre-planning, planning and design) before receiving construction funding. The ability to move to construction depends on the overall readiness of the full project.

When I met with the Rocky View School Board on March 9, I confirmed our commitment to move to construction on these much-needed projects when the key activities are complete, and projects are construction ready. Additionally, I confirmed that my department will continue to work closely with your school division to confirm and monitor the site and project readiness.

Our government understands the pressures faced by Rocky View School division and your growing communities and look forward the completion of each project as soon as possible.

Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Education