

September 25, 2012

## **Construction begins on new schools in growing communities**

### ***Doors will open to students in September 2014***

*Edmonton...* Construction crews are set to start work on a dozen new schools for some of Alberta's fastest growing communities, creating up to 7,700 new spaces for Alberta students.

"Albertans told us that we needed to invest in families, and what better way to do that than by building new schools," said Premier Alison Redford. "These schools will benefit our families and strengthen our communities for generations to come."

Following a competitive bidding process and rigorous evaluation, the Alberta government has signed a contract to deliver 12 new schools in eight communities through a public-private partnership (P3). ABC Schools Partnership has been identified as the successful P3 partner and will be responsible for the design, build, finance and maintenance of these new schools.

"Using a P3 approach means we can complete these schools up to two years earlier than through traditional methods and save millions of dollars," said Infrastructure Minister Wayne Drysdale. "Alberta students and communities will have the innovative, multi-purpose learning facilities they need now and into the future at less cost to the taxpayer."

"We will provide the modern, technologically advanced learning facilities that Alberta students and communities want and deserve," said Mike McGuinty, Senior Vice President, HOCHTIEF PPP Solutions North America Inc., ABC Schools Partnership. "They will be designed and maintained to inspire and support learning during the day while meeting diverse community needs for evening and weekend activities."

This bundle of 12 P3 schools is part of a \$550-million investment, announced by the Alberta government in May 2011, to support 35 new schools and modernization projects (22 new schools and 13 modernizations) in some of Alberta's fastest-growing communities. The school projects outside the P3 bundle are all on track to begin opening to students in the 2014-15 school year.

The Alberta government is committed to building Alberta's economic future and investing in families and communities, including the education system and its supporting infrastructure.

"Building schools is an investment in our students and our future prosperity," said Jeff Johnson, Minister of Education. "But we are building more than just schools, we are building communities."

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**Backgrounder:** P3 bundle of new schools, ABC Schools Partnership

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# Background

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## P3 bundle of new schools

- 12 new schools will be delivered in eight communities through a public-private partnership (P3):

Community	School Board/Authority	Grades	Maximum Capacity
Airdrie	Rocky View School Division	6-8	900
	Rocky View School Division	9-12	1200
Beaumont - two schools sharing one facility	Black Gold Regional Division	K-9	700
	St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division	K-9	500
Brooks	Grassland Regional Division	K-6	450
Chestermere	Rocky View School Division	K-9	900
Cochrane	Greater Southern Separate Catholic Francophone Education Region	K-9	250
Medicine Hat	Medicine Hat School District	K-9	900
Penhold	Chinook's Edge School Division	7-12	500
Red Deer	Greater North Central Francophone Education Region	K-12	300
	Red Deer Catholic Regional Division	K-5	500
	Red Deer School District	K-5	600

- The P3 bundle was initially planned for 13 schools, however, due to site issues that could not be resolved within the schedule of the P3 procurement process, the Airdrie K-12 Francophone school was removed from the bundle.
- The Airdrie Francophone K-12 school is still on track to be completed by the 2014-15 school year. The new Francophone school will be built on a new site using a more traditional delivery method.

## ABC Schools Partnership

- ABC Schools Partnership had the lowest bid price at \$288.78 million, saving Alberta taxpayers about \$43 million compared to the cost of doing the same work through traditional delivery methods.
- The P3 contract with ABC Schools Partnership ensures construction of these 12 schools is

completed up to two years sooner than possible through traditional methods. Through a P3, government receives a 30-year warranty on the work. Under traditional school delivery methods, warranties are usually only one to two years. Schools will be owned and operated by school boards, and operate like existing schools.

- The ABC Schools Partnership consortium consists of:
  - Project Lead and Financing
    - HOCHTIEF PPP Solutions North America Inc. (Lead)
    - Concert Infrastructure Ltd.
  - Design and Build
    - Clark Builders
    - Stantec Architecture Ltd.
    - Stantec Consulting Ltd.
  - Maintenance
    - Ainsworth Inc.

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