

Elk Island Catholic Schools Capital Plan for Fort Saskatchewan

Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) seeks to inform our community and collect feedback on our Capital Plan. Feedback, both positive and constructive, is encouraged. Please forward feedback to: eicstalks@eics.ab.ca

Challenges

- Over the past 5 years, Fort Saskatchewan has grown an average of 5% per year and growth is anticipated to continue at current rates with significant industrial development occurring in the area.
- Elk Island Catholic Schools in the area are growing at the same rate as the municipality as a whole.
- If current trends continue as expected, current schools would be utilized at 157.6%

Capital Planning Process

- New and replacement schools, modulars, modernizations and additions are approved and **funded solely by the Provincial Government** based on the capital plans submitted.
- Education prioritizes these project requests by first considering school board priorities and then other criteria, including health and safety of students and staff, enrolment projections, current utilization (85% considered full), facility conditions and capacity for program delivery.
- Projects are approved when funds become available. Education's needs are looked at in the context of the infrastructure needs of other government ministries including roads, hospitals and universities.

School Situations

Pope John XXIII Catholic School (PJ23)

- PJ23 is currently at 90.8% utilized and is projected to be at 170.3% in 2027 with no capital additions.
- The Division has requested 11 modulars, 6 to replace aging buildings and 5 to expand classroom space.
- Consequences of adding modulars to the site include inadequate space in the core school, more playground equipment needed. As well, parking and student drop-off issues would be worse than they are now.

Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School (OLA)

- OLA is currently at 95.9% utilized and is projected to be at 164.6% in 2027 with no capital additions.
- The Division has requested 4 modulars in addition to the one that is currently being installed.
- Consequences of adding modulars to the site include the loss of hard play space and inadequate space in the core school.

John Paul II Catholic High School (JP11)

- JP11 is currently at 74.4% utilized and is projected to be at 141.3% in 2027 with no capital additions.
- The Division has not yet requested modulars but will be requesting 7 modulars in future years to expand space.
- Consequences of adding modulars to the site include inadequate space and amenities in the core school and severe parking shortages for a high school.

Capital Plan Request

- The Division's current capital plan, which is reviewed on an annual basis, requests a 750 capacity high school to be built next to the Dow Centennial Centre in 2018. Grade configurations would be as follows:
PJ23 (K-4) OLA (K-4) JP11 (5-8) New high school (9-12)
- In this proposal, all schools will see a significant reduction in expected utilization and will have the following advantages for students:
 - A new 21st century facility for high school students, close to the amenities of the Dow Centennial Centre.
 - High school amenities for middle year's students and parking that is adequate for a middle school.
 - Right sizing of space to better meet programming requirements and site limitations at PJ23 and OLA.