

April 18, 2023

His Worship Amarjeet Sohi
Mayor, City of Edmonton
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Sohi:

Subject: Edmonton Public Schools Updated *Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2023–2032* and *Three-Year Capital Plan 2024–2027*

I am pleased to share with you Edmonton Public School's updated [Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2023–2032](#) and [Three-Year Capital Plan 2024–2027](#), both approved by our Board of Trustees on March 21, 2023.

Edmonton Public's **Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2023–2032** identifies the Division's long-range facility needs and incorporates a strategic focus aimed at ensuring effective and efficient use of capital funding. The plan highlights the challenges facing the Division today and in the decade to come. Our most pressing infrastructure challenges can be summarized into two key themes: a lack of available space and the condition of our buildings. Fundamentally, choice for students and families will be reduced as available space becomes more limited, and aging infrastructure needs renewal or replacement.

The amount of space the Division has available to accommodate students is declining, which compromises the Division's ability to provide choice through open attendance area boundaries, alternative and Division centre special needs programs, access to schools close to where students live, and reasonable student transportation ride times.

The condition of many existing schools continues to decline as funding limitations are leading to a mounting deferred maintenance deficit anticipated to exceed \$1 billion by 2027. This limits the Division's ability to deliver quality learning environments for all students regardless of where they live, and to provide diverse learning environments to accommodate student needs. It is becoming increasingly difficult to plan for and improve our school facilities within core, mature and established areas of Edmonton to meet the needs of the families and children, both current and anticipated, and those who might call these areas home in the future as envisioned in Edmonton's City Plan.

The **Three-Year Capital Plan 2024–2027** establishes the Division's three-year capital priorities, representing the Division's highest priority school facility needs for the forthcoming three-year period. In the capital plan are three main areas of focus: new school construction, existing school modernization, and solution projects that involve replacing multiple older schools.

In addition, the updated ***Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2023–2032*** highlights the challenges the Division faces in the coming decade. Unpredictable provincial capital and maintenance funding models continue to present a significant challenge for the Division’s planning and allocation of resources. Growth rates are returning to pre-downturn and pre-pandemic levels, with enrolment now well surpassing pre-pandemic levels. Enrolment from September 2021 to September 2022 increased by 4.2 per cent or 4,455 new students. This growth is the largest one-year enrolment increase for the Division since 1964–1965, when the West Jasper Place School Division was amalgamated with Edmonton Public Schools, including students and school buildings.

School jurisdiction capital plans are requests submitted to the Government of Alberta to fund school construction projects. Five new school projects to serve rapidly developing areas of the City top our priority list. On March 1, 2023, the Province announced planning or pre-planning funding for three of these priorities, design funding for a fourth, and full construction funding for a previously identified priority in the Edgemont neighbourhood. It remains a concern that our Division—the second largest school jurisdiction in Alberta—has been unable to secure funding for school projects in a number of Edmonton’s communities where urgent need exists, challenging our ability to provide quality learning spaces to meet the educational needs of resident and inbound families.

As part of the development of these plans, the Division has considered the strategic plans of the City of Edmonton and surrounding areas, including the City Plan. City policies relating to residential density targets in new and infill development impact our future needs for new schools and modernizations of existing facilities. We will continue to work closely with your administration to understand how the City is evolving, to best align our resources with the development and demographic patterns in our city to provide the best possible educational environments to serve students and families.

We trust that the information provided, particularly the current capital funding context for Edmonton Public Schools, is of value and can be used in discussions relating to our mutual challenges—including adequate funding—to better support our families and children. Should you wish to discuss either the updated [Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2023–2032](#) or [Three-Year Capital Plan 2024–2027](#), please contact my office at 780-429-8016.

Sincerely,


Trisha Estabrooks
Board Chair

Attachment: [Capital Plan Overview](#)

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