



*For release: April 28, 2020*

## **Crucial Need for New Schools in Capital Plan**

At this afternoon's virtual public Board meeting, Trustees approved the Division's Capital Plan for 2021-2024. The three-year Capital Plan consists of 12 capital projects and one partnership and after the plan was submitted, Alberta Education announced funding for a new Catholic high school in Heritage Valley/Heritage Valley Town Centre. The first year of the plan confirms the increasing urgency for construction of new schools.

1. **Castledowns/Dunluce (Grade 10-12) High School** - there is a deficit of 1,241 student spaces in the northwest sector of Edmonton. The northwest sector of Edmonton is the only area without a Catholic high school. As a result, Archbishop O'Leary (AOL) High School has over 1,800 students enrolled this year and some classes have been moved to nearby St. Cecilia Junior High as there is no additional space at AOL.
2. **Lewis Farms/Secord Elementary/Junior High (K – 9) School** – without a new elementary/junior high, there will be 1,600 students enrolled at Bishop David Motiuk K-9 in Lewis Greens by 2030.
3. **Heritage Valley/Cavanagh Elementary/Junior High (K-9) School** – three out of four schools within the K-9 southwest planning sector have reached their full build out capacity.

“Providing the best learning experience for our students is one of the top priorities for Edmonton Catholic Schools. As the fastest growing Catholic school division in Alberta, enrolment in ECSD will far outpace the growth in Edmonton,” said Laura Thibert, Chair, Edmonton Catholic Schools. “With provincial funding for new schools as well as modernizing and replacing older buildings, students will continue their high-quality Catholic educational journey in our Division,” Thibert added.

Four replacement schools are also needed in year two and three of the 2021-2024 Capital Plan; three elementary/junior high (K-9) schools and one elementary (K – 6) school.

The need for a Catholic high school in northwest Edmonton is becoming critical,” said Robert Martin, Superintendent, Edmonton Catholic Schools. “The closest high school is Archbishop O'Leary and it is at 118% capacity and enrolment continues to increase each year. A new high school in Castledowns/Dunluce would ease enrolment pressures and ensure that students can attend a Catholic high school in northwest Edmonton,” Martin added.