

**CEFPI Alberta
2015 Spring Conference
“Innovation Evolution”
Alberta Education Update**

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Upcoming Changes to Processes

- Streamlining processes
- Education Act and upcoming amendments
- School Building & Tendering Regulation

Commitment to School Infrastructure

- Three phases of projects – Announced between May 2011 and October of 2014
- Schools remain a top priority
- March 26, 2015 – Release of Budget 2015

Ongoing Need for New Schools

- One hospital alone - delivering 2 kindergarten classes every week
- Over 50,000 babies born in Alberta annually for past six years
- Ongoing projection that this birth-rate will continue for several years
- Economic climate not anticipated to have a significant impact on growth in K-12 student population

Alberta's Commitment to Building Schools: 10-Year Capital Program

- Phase 1 (Announced 2011-12)
 - 35 school projects
- Phase 2 (Announced 2013-14)
 - 50 new and expanded schools,
 - 70 modernizations/replacement schools
- Phase 3 (Announced 2014-15 – Planning Funds)
 - 57 new and expanded schools
 - 20 modernizations/replacement schools

Lessons Learned

- **Site issues**
 - Readiness/servicing (e.g., developer commitments not met)
 - Legal challenges
 - Appropriateness (size, topography, water licenses, etc.)
- **Municipal Collaboration is Critical**
 - Timely permitting
 - Servicing of sites
 - Partnership funding/contribution to enhanced schools

Enhancing the Learning Environment

- **Innovative Design Elements**

- Learning Neighborhoods

- Roof top gardens

- Enhanced flexibility in CTS space (e.g., Maker spaces)

- Integration of traditional aboriginal learning spaces

- Living walls, variable seating plans in classrooms

- Partnership opportunities with the community in relation to gyms, libraries and theaters.

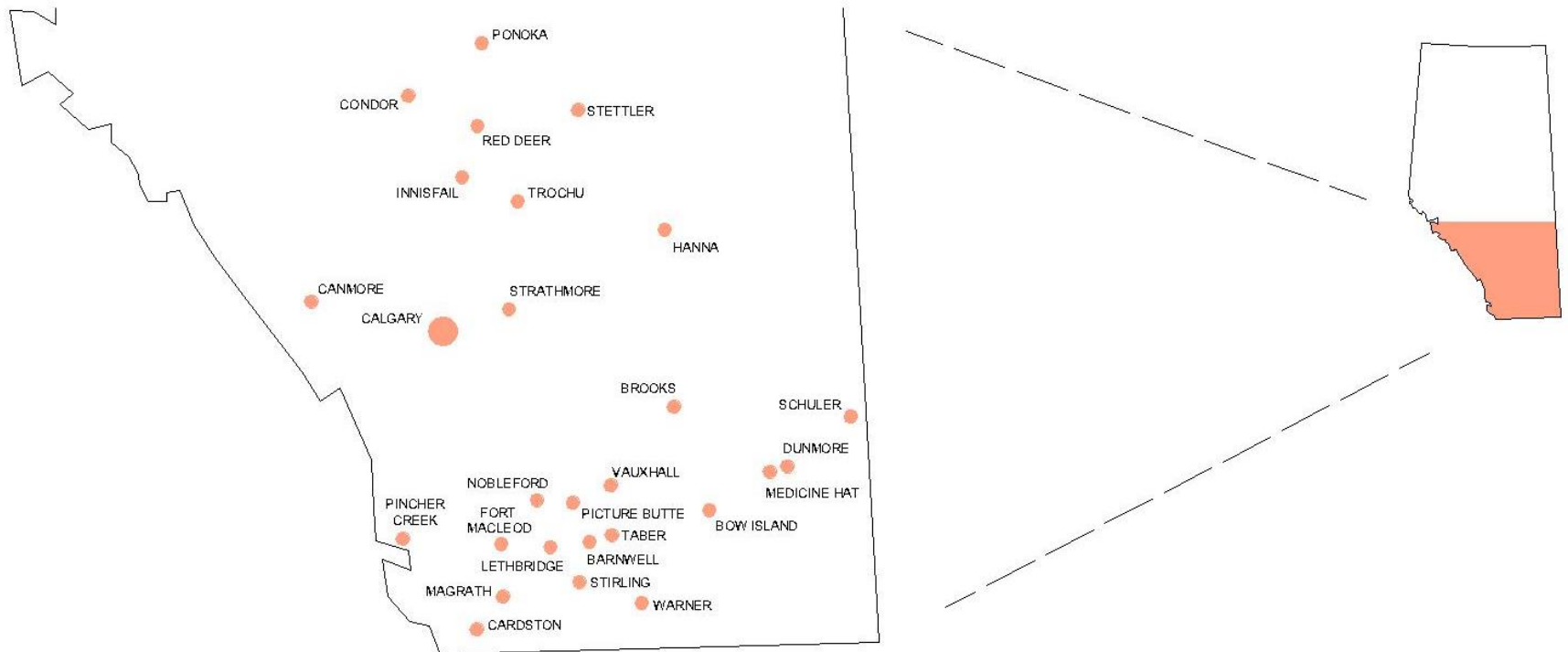
Enhancing the Learning Environment

- **Improved Safety for Students**
 - Safer bus drop-offs and turn-arounds
 - Separate parent drop-offs and parking
 - Consideration of gender-neutral washrooms and change rooms
- **Specialized learning spaces**
 - Christine Meikle School (replacement)
 - Alberta School for the Deaf (modernization)

Project Scoping Session Locations (North)



Project Scoping Session Locations (South)



Why Use Project Scoping?

- **Facilitates collaboration**
- **Increases understanding with input from experts in various subject matters**
- **Identifies options – considering cost efficiencies and program needs**
- **Establishes project scope**
- **Establishes cost estimate**
- **Obtains consensus on clearly defined scope of work**

Comments from Project Scoping Session Participants

- “The scoping exercise provided us with the time and direction to think deeply about the specifics associated with what that school would actually look like. This has now given us a great foundation for moving on to the next phase and real confidence...”
- “The most valuable aspects were the draft drawings and subsequent cost estimates. That provides all concerned with good information about possibilities and choices that will ultimately have to be made in selecting priorities.”

Comments from Project Scoping Session Participants

- “I think the design that was put together was one that will meet the needs of the school community.... it will result in a much improved learning space.”
- “I appreciated having a variety of different representatives around the table, each of whom brought their own perspective and interesting insights.”

Requests for Project Scoping Sessions

- Sessions have proven to provide valuable outcomes
- But . . . time and resource intensive
- Limited to high priority, complex projects
- Contact Capital Planning if you wish to inquire

Feedback on Planning Funds Approach – Phase 3

- Based on two-part project approval
 - Planning/design funding
 - Construction funding
- Differs from previous project approvals (e.g., Phase 2) where full funding approved at the outset
- Looking for feedback on this approach
 - How has the planning phase experience changed?
 - Does it offer benefits or increased challenges?

Thanks!

- Appreciate your attention and your input
- Thanks for the opportunity to present