
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

B.C. PARTNERS WITH DISTRICT, SFU TRUST ON NEW SCHOOL

BURNABY – The Province has supported a new elementary school on Burnaby Mountain near Simon Fraser University that will serve the growing number of families now living close to campus, Burnaby MLA Harry Bloy announced today.

“Our government is thrilled to be part of this partnership with SFU Community Trust and the Burnaby school district,” said Bloy. “By taking advantage of buildings and property made available by the university trust, we will be able to build a state-of-the-art elementary school that will serve the growing UniverCity community.”

The elementary school on Burnaby Mountain will have space for 40 kindergarten and 275 elementary students. SFU Community Trust will grant an existing academic building for renovation and approximately 1.90 hectares of land for playing fields to the Burnaby board of education, by way of a free, 99-year lease. The total cost of the new school is \$7.6 million, with the trust providing \$1.25 million, the Burnaby school district \$1.25 million, and \$5.1 million from the Province.

“This innovative partnership will mean that students in the community have a state-of-the-art school as an integral part of the UniverCity community,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “Developing this new elementary school in partnership with SFU Community Trust and the board of education will provide unique opportunities for students to draw on the educational resources the university has to offer.”

The new school design has not been finalized but the Burnaby board of education has committed to incorporating environmental standards as set out in Budget 2008. The district will include environmentally sustainable features around site development, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

“The Burnaby board of education is pleased to hear the new school has been approved,” said board chair Kathy Corrigan. “The board and the community are thrilled that we can partner with the SFU Community Trust and move ahead with construction and the promise of a high-quality learning facility for our students and staff.”

“The SFU Community Trust is very pleased that government has recognized the importance of an elementary school as a component of our complete sustainable community,” said Gordon Harris, president of the SFU Community Trust. “We currently have 80 elementary-aged children in our community, and that number will grow to over 100 by the time the doors open in September 2010.”

Since 2001, the Province has invested \$65.6 million in the Burnaby school district to complete seven capital projects. Since 2001, the Province has spent more than \$1.3 billion to complete 26 new schools, 41 replacements, 147 additions, 25 renovations and 20 site acquisitions across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$3.1 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across the province.

Media Public Affairs Bureau
contact: Ministry of Education
 250 356-5963

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