



Ontario Building New Addition to School in South Porcupine

Province's investment in innovative and modern learning spaces will ensure students have high quality education in a safe and healthy environment

NEWS

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As part of the province's ongoing efforts to build and improve local schools, the Ontario government has provided the Northeastern Catholic District School Board with approval to award the tender for an addition at St Joseph School to create new child care spaces. This is supported by an investment of \$5.5 million.

Once completed, this project will deliver 49 licensed child care spaces for local families. The investment is part of Ontario's commitment to providing approximately \$15 billion to support school construction, repair, and renewal over 10 years. Since 2018, the government has approved nearly 200 school construction projects and the development of more than 300 child care and education building-related projects, of which more than 100 are actively under construction.

"This investment in our community will help the hard-working parents in Timmins and across the region access affordable and modern child care services," said George Pirie, MPP for Timmins. "Our government's multi-million-dollar investment in these services is just one of the many ways we support children in our community, making Timmins one of the best places to live, work and raise a family."

Additionally, Ontario is taking action to ensure that school board capital assets are used effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of growing communities, support student learning and ensure value for taxpayer dollars. *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act* will empower decision-makers to build modern schools faster by better utilizing school capacity, reducing barriers for school boards to facilitate agreements for schools in multi-use buildings such as condo towers, and shortening planning time by requiring school boards to use certain designs or plans when constructing, renovating, or making additions to schools.

"We are determined to build schools and expansions faster, part of our commitment to modernize schools in fast growing communities," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "We are proud to deliver this critical expansion at St Joseph School for local families, along with increasing funding, staffing and a back-to-basics focus on reading, writing and math skills to help ensure students graduate with confidence that they can succeed in good-paying careers."

Highlights of the project include:

- 3 new child care rooms (49 new child care spaces)

GEORGE PIRIE

Député – Timmins – MPP



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“Under Premier Ford’s leadership, we’re building more state-of-the-art schools to support the needs of Ontario’s students, families and growing communities. By investing in innovative and modern learning spaces, we’re ensuring students have access to the quality education that will provide them with lifelong skills and education in a safe and healthy environment,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “These investments are one of the ways we’re delivering on our promise to build Ontario, with an infrastructure budget of more than \$148 billion over the next decade.”

“The child care expansion project at St. Joseph School is great news for the South Porcupine community. The Northeastern Catholic District School Board recognizes the value and importance of accessible early years programs and care,” said Tricia Stefanic Weltz, NCDSB Director of Education. “We are pleased to know that another one of our Catholic schools will be a place where families can access safe, high-quality licensed child care. The NCDSB gratefully acknowledges the Ministry of Education in providing the funding necessary to help us better serve the needs of the community. Together, we are building stronger programs and providing greater opportunities for children and families in Northern Ontario.”

St Joseph School is located at 207 Huot Street in South Porcupine.

Quick Facts:

- Since 2018, the Ontario government has invested over \$2.2 billion in capital projects in education, including 100 new schools, 88 additions and renovations to existing facilities and nearly 6,500 new licensed child care spaces.
- For the 2023-24 school year, the province is providing school boards with approximately \$1.4 billion in funding to revitalize and renew aged building systems and components.
- In April 2023, Ontario introduced *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act* that will ensure the public education system focuses on what matters most: important life-long skills such as reading, writing and math; improve accountability and transparency for parents and families; and build schools faster while better utilizing current school spaces to get more classrooms into communities that need them.
- In March 2022, the Governments of Canada and Ontario signed a \$13.2 billion agreement that will lower child care fees in stages for families, delivering an average of \$10 a day child care by September 2025.

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