

## 2020-21 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BUDGET BACKGROUNDER

### Prekindergarten to Grade 12

- Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions will receive \$1.94 billion in school operating funding for the 2020-21 school year. This is an increase of \$42.1 million, or 2.2 per cent more than last school year's \$1.90 billion budget. This increase includes funding for a teachers' collective bargaining agreement.
- \$11.8 million in operating grants for qualified independent schools and historical high schools, an increase of \$1.3 million, due to increased enrolment and an increase of student funding to align historical high schools with associate schools.

### School Infrastructure:

\$37.3 million in capital funding for 2020-21 to support economic recovery in Saskatchewan, as part of the Government's two-year capital plan, including:

- \$20.4 million for new major capital projects; and,
- \$16.9 million for renewal maintenance projects around the province, including projects that will reduce school operating costs through energy efficiency.

\$130.4 million for capital investments, an increase of \$34.8 million or 36.4 per cent over 2019-20, which includes:

- \$8.5 million to begin planning and design on the building of seven new schools and renovations on three existing schools, including:
  - a new joint-use facility with two elementary schools in Regina's Harbour Landing neighborhood;
  - consolidation of the elementary school and high school in Carrot River;
  - renovations to Yorkton Regional High School;
  - renovations and addition to John Paul II Collegiate in North Battleford;
  - a new elementary school to replace Princess Alexandra, King George and Pleasant Hill elementary schools in Saskatoon;
  - a joint-use facility with two elementary schools to replace St. Peter, St. Michael and Imperial elementary schools in Regina;
  - replacement of St. Frances Elementary in Saskatoon; and,
  - renovations and addition to Athol Murray College of Notre Dame.
- \$500,000 to assess the current state of high schools in the cities of Regina and Saskatoon and determine the future high school needs for east Regina and east Saskatoon.
- \$46.9 million to provide funding for four ongoing major school consolidation projects in Rosthern, Weyburn, Moose Jaw and Regina.
- \$62.9 million for preventative maintenance, renewal and emergency funding, which includes \$12.0 million from the *Canada-Saskatchewan Climate Action Initiative Fund*.
- \$10.6 million for relocatable classrooms, providing:
  - \$4.6 million for 10 joint-use school relocatable classrooms for the 2020-21 school year at:
    - École Wascana Plains School in Regina;
    - St. Kateri Tekakwitha and Ernest Lindner schools in Saskatoon;

- Holy Trinity Catholic School in Warman; and,
  - École Holy Mary Catholic School in Martensville; and,
- \$6.0 million for relocatable classrooms for the 2021-22 school year.
- \$1 million for school facility assessments.

### **Early Years and Child Care**

- \$98 million for child care and early learning, which includes:
  - \$73.5 million for licensed child care, including:
    - an increase of \$350,000 in provincial funding for specialized Prekindergarten programming to support preschool-aged children with intensive needs; and,
    - an increase of \$1.7 million for child care centres for operating costs.
  - \$16.0 million in funding for *KidsFirst*, an increase of \$399,000.
  - \$4.4 million for Early Childhood Intervention Programs, an increase of \$109,000.
- \$2.4 million for nutrition programs, an increase of \$60,000.

### **Libraries and Literacy**

- \$11.3 million in supports for libraries, an increase of \$84,000 from 2019-20, including:
  - \$6.1 million in resource sharing grants for the seven regional library systems, an increase of \$60,000;
  - \$999,000 in resource sharing grants for Pahkisimon Nuyeyáh Library System in Northern Saskatchewan, an increase of \$10,000;
  - \$1.4 million for municipal libraries in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert, an increase of \$14,000; and,
  - \$2.8 million in continued support of accessible library services and for infrastructure including internet connectivity and the Single Integrated Library System.
- \$1 million in continued funding to support Saskatchewan's literacy programs, including:
  - \$541,000 to the network of Family Literacy Hubs; and,
  - \$500,000 to continue to support the provision of 20 summer literacy programs in eight school divisions. Options are being explored to find alternative ways to offer literacy programs to ensure the safety of both participants and staff.

### **Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People**

- \$5.1 million in ongoing funding in response to the Joint Task Force for the following initiatives:
  - \$2.4 million to continue the Invitational Shared Services Initiative;
  - \$2.1 million continued support of *Following Their Voices* (First Nations and Métis Student Achievement Initiative);
  - \$300,000 in continued support of *Help Me Tell My Story* and *Help Me Talk About Math*;
  - \$200,000 in continued support of *Leading to Learn*, a professional learning opportunity for provincial and First Nations' school principals; and,
  - \$137,000 for Microsoft Software Licensing.

### **Teachers' Pension and Benefits**

- \$417.2 million for the teachers' pensions (Statutory) and benefits (Statutory and CBA), an increase of \$6.3 million or 1.5 per cent. This includes:
  - \$394.8 million in statutory funding requirements for the two pension plans (the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan and the Teachers' Superannuation Plan), the Teachers' Dental Plan and the Teachers' Group Life Plan, an increase of \$6.3 million or 1.6 per cent;
  - \$21.0 million in bargained benefits to teachers for extended health, no change from 2019-20 budget; and,
  - \$1.3 million in operation costs for the Teachers' Superannuation Commission, an increase of \$11,000 or 0.8 per cent.