

Catholic schools welcome new capital funding in Alberta budget

New Catholic school projects in Edmonton, Red Deer and the Calgary area are among the [25 capital projects to receive a portion of \\$397 million in education budget funding](#).

“We made a promise to Albertans that our government will continue to build new schools, and we are doing exactly that,” Education Minister Adriana LaGrange said in a Nov. 1 statement.



Adriana LaGrange

“Through our significant investment in new schools, replacements, modernizations and infrastructure upkeep, our children will continue to learn in up-to-date and safe spaces,” LaGrange said.

The Alberta government is providing funding for 15 new Catholic and public schools, including a new Catholic high school in south Edmonton. Six schools are earmarked for replacement, and four will receive modernizations or additions as part of the provincial budget announced Oct. 24.

[Edmonton Catholic Schools](#) will receive design funding for a new, \$55 million Grade 10-12 high school in Heritage Valley with a capacity for 1,300 students, as well as funding for construction of a new \$31-million, kindergarten-to-Grade 9 elementary/junior high school in Keswick. That school will have a capacity of 950 students.



Laura Thibert

“Today’s announcement is a great start to helping us meet the growing number of students who are choosing Edmonton Catholic Schools,” board chair Laura Thibert said in a statement.

“We are extremely pleased that the provincial government has listened to the crucial need for our first Capital Plan priority of a K-9 school in Keswick. In this community, 72 percent of the residential lots still have to be developed, and the closest Catholic K-9 school is over capacity.”

Thibert added that Heritage Valley is one of the fastest growing sectors in the city and three of the four Catholic kindergarten to Grade 9 schools in the area are at, or over, capacity.

The Edmonton Catholic School District notes that every year its enrolment increases by approximately 1,000 students, which translates into a need for 33 more classrooms each year.

Other Catholic school districts receiving capital funding include [Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools](#) for design of a new Grade 6-9 middle school, [Calgary Catholic School District](#) for construction of a new K-9 elementary/junior high school in Cochrane, and [Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools](#) for the modernization of Morinville Community High School.