



MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Ford Government Building New School in Innisfil**

*Province Approves Construction of a New Elementary School in Innisfil to Strengthen Student Learning and Increase Access to Child Care*

July 23, 2020

INNISFIL — The Ontario government recently announced it is investing over \$500 million to build 30 new schools and make upgrades to 15 existing facilities.

The province has given Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board approval to tender for a new elementary school in Innisfil. The investment will provide a new, quality learning environment for the students of Innisfil, as well as new child care rooms. This project is part of the province's capital investment program to support students with better learning spaces.

"When I speak to parents, I hear the importance they place on having more schools in our community so their children can spend less time on the school bus and more time in the classroom," said Andrea Khanjin, MPP for Barrie-Innisfil. "Today's announcement of funding for a new school in Innisfil is wonderful news for our community. This investment will provide memories and academic success for generations of students. The inclusion of 49 new licensed child care spaces will be a relief for parents struggling to find care close to home.

Ontario's investment in new and updated schools will create the foundation for a modern learning environment for hundreds of students across the province. This investment will also generate nearly 900 new licensed child care spaces.

"From modernizing our curriculum to revitalizing our classrooms and their facilities, we are investing in our students and giving them every tool to achieve their full potential," said Education Minister Stephen Lecce. "Our financing of the new, yet-to-be-named elementary school in Innisfil further demonstrates our government's historic investment in Ontario's schools and our overall commitment to supporting our students and families."

Highlights of the new school construction include:

- 401 elementary student spaces
- 49 new licensed child care spaces
- 3 new child care rooms.

### **QUICK FACTS**

- The Ford Government is protecting what matters most by working with school board partners to invest in capital projects that advance student learning.
- To create new opportunities for Ontario's families, the government is investing up to \$1 billion to create up to 30,000 new child care spaces in schools over the next five years.

- The Ford Government announced in Budget 2019 that over the next ten years, Ontario is investing over \$12 billion in capital grants, including allocating over \$500M this year alone for new schools, additions and major renovations.
- This massive investment will build new schools and help existing schools after a decade of Liberal closures and maintenance backlog.
- Ontario is also providing school boards with a historic \$1.4 billion in funding to renew and maintain existing schools.
- This funding could be used to replace ageing heating or air conditioning systems, repair roofs and windows, and install important accessibility features like elevators and ramps.

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*Andrea Khanjin is the MPP for Barrie–Innisfil, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Deputy Government House Leader*

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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