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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Infrastructure

### **Opening elementary school addition in Comox Valley**

School addition at Aspen Park Elementary adds 270 new seats for students

COMOX –

#### **Summary**

- *A new 270-seat addition at Aspen Park Elementary in Comox has opened*
- *The addition provides students with a modern, comfortable learning environment that supports learning year round, with energy-efficient heating and cooling capabilities*
- *This \$16.5-million investment is part of the Province’s commitment of \$85 million in expanded and upgraded schools in the Comox Valley School District, including Lake Trail Middle school and the replacement of Hornby Island Elementary school*

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Families in Comox are now benefiting from a new 270-seat addition at Aspen Park Elementary that will create more supportive learning environments for students in the growing community.

“These classrooms provide high-quality learning environments for students and families in Comox,” said Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure. “Built using innovative construction methods, this project delivers modern, accessible, energy-efficient classrooms that meet the needs of students today and into the future.”

#### **Features of the addition**

The new prefabricated addition began construction in winter 2025 and opened for students just under 14 months later.

The new addition includes:

- 11 classrooms designed to support modern teaching and learning
- capacity for 270 additional students to help accommodate enrolment growth
- dedicated space for special education to support students with diverse needs
- a covered breezeway connecting the addition to the existing school, allowing students and staff to move comfortably between spaces year-round
- energy-efficient building systems that create a bright, comfortable learning environment throughout the year
- an elevator to ensure full accessibility

“Expanding Aspen Park Elementary is an investment in the future of the Comox Valley,” said Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care. “By adding more spaces here, we’re making

sure students have welcoming, well-designed places to learn and help build a stronger, more vibrant community for generations to come.”

### **Supporting students in Comox Valley**

The Province invested \$16.5 million in the addition.

Since 2017, the Province has committed \$85 million to create 655 new seats and 695 seismically safer seats for Comox Valley students. These include:

- a new addition under construction at Cumberland Community school
- a partial replacement and seismic upgrades at Lake Trail Middle school, which opened in 2021

“The new addition at Aspen Park Elementary represents an important investment in the future of our students,” said Michelle Waite, board chair, Comox Valley School District. “With 270 new seats and modern learning spaces, the expansion will provide a connected and supportive environment for teaching and learning. Projects like this support the Comox Valley School District to meet the needs of our community.”

### **Creating more student spaces throughout B.C.**

- Since 2017, the Province has approved more than \$7 billion to build and upgrade schools throughout B.C.
- These investments will create more than 47,000 new student seats and more than 39,000 seismically safer seats.
- To date, more than 23,500 new student seats and more than 33,000 seismically safer seats have been completed.

As the province grows, government is committed to working with school districts and municipalities to provide all students with safe, modern places to learn.

### **Learn More:**

For more information about K-12 school capital projects in B.C., visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/capital>

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