



GOLDIE GHAMARI
MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
CARLETON

PRESS RELEASE

Ontario Government Building New School in Carleton
Province Approves Construction of Fernbank Elementary School

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2021

CARLETON - As part of Ontario's ongoing efforts to build and improve local schools, the province has given Ottawa-Carleton District School Board approval to tender a new Fernbank Elementary School.

The \$17.5 million investment will provide a new, quality learning environment for the students of Ottawa, 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.

"Local, accessible public education is important to me, and this investment in our Stittsville students shows the great value our government places on learning and on the success of children in Carleton," said Goldie Ghamari, MPP for Carleton. "Fernbank Elementary School will provide a quality, modern learning environment for students. I'm pleased that the school also includes more child care spaces and child care rooms that promote early learning opportunities for the future leaders of Carleton."

In addition, to support parents with the cost of child care and help them re-enter the workforce, Ontario is providing a 20 per cent enhancement of the Childcare Access and Relief from Expenses (CARE) tax credit for 2021. This will increase support from \$1,250 to \$1,500 per family, on average, providing about \$75 million in additional support for the 2021 child care expenses of over 300,000 families.

The Ontario government is also providing more than [\\$1.6 billion in targeted COVID-19 resources](#) for the upcoming school year. This funding is for a range of supports including mental health, reading, and math supports for Ontario students.

"After a decade of school closures in rural and suburban communities, our government is building new schools benefiting Ottawa families and students for decades to come," said Education Minister Stephen Lecce. "With growth continuing in the community, we are excited to move the new Fernbank Elementary School forward part of our government's \$14 billion commitment to build new schools, improve existing facilities and expand child care."



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Highlights of the new school construction include:

- 628 elementary student spaces.
- 39 new licensed child care spaces.
- 2 new child care rooms.

"I'm very pleased to be proceeding with construction of this school to serve the rapidly growing Fernbank communities," said Lynn Scott, Trustee of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. It will relieve significant overcrowding at neighbouring schools, and give the children of this community a school they can truly call their own."

Fernbank Elementary School will be located at 480 Cope Drive in Ottawa.

Quick Facts:

- The Ontario Government is working with school board partners to invest in capital projects that advance safe and accessible learning opportunities for students.
- 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 five years.
- The Ontario Government announced in Budget 2020 that over the next ten years, Ontario is investing \$13 billion in capital grants, including allocating \$550M in 2020-21 for new schools, additions and major renovations.
- This massive investment will build new schools and help existing schools after a decade of 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 aging heating or air conditioning systems, repair roofs and windows, and install important accessibility features like elevators and ramps.

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