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Major investments in education infrastructure

**INVESTMENT OF ALMOST 3.3 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE
ÉCOLE GREATER GATINEAU–ST-ALOYSIUS**

Gatineau, January 11, 2018. — An amount of almost \$3.3 million is being allocated for the addition of five new classrooms and a daycare area at the Greater Gatineau–St-Aloysius de Gatineau elementary school.

Marc Carrière, Member of the National Assembly for Chapleau, and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports and the Minister responsible for Higher Education, made this announcement today on behalf of Sébastien Proulx, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports and Minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region.

In addition, last June 13, Minister Proulx announced that all construction or expansion projects involving school infrastructure, in both the general education and vocational training sectors, would begin receiving increased funding. This could be up to 15% of the cost of the work and associated expenses for the implementation of architectural or engineering solutions to support both the educational success of students and sustainable development. Eligible projects include the creation of open and flexible learning spaces conducive to creativity, collaboration and interaction; work to increase available light and sustainable environments in terms of indoor air quality; and systems that minimize the emission of greenhouse gases. Such funding is a concrete way to support educational success for all Quebecers, from early childhood to adulthood.

This investment is provided under the 2017-2027 Québec Infrastructure Plan. For the 2017-2018 school year, \$400 million will be allocated to school boards under the measure to provide additional space for general education. These funds will enable the boards to carry out school construction, expansion and renovation projects, and to acquire buildings or equipment for both the general education and vocational training sectors.

Quotations:

“This additional space will allow us to meet the needs of the region, which is rapidly growing. With this investment, our government is showing that education is one of its key priorities and that we are paying attention to the population of Québec and the school community and their needs. Today’s announcement is, therefore, excellent news for teachers, students and their families. I am convinced that this investment will have a positive impact on the success of our young people.”

Marc Carrière, MNA for Chapleau, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports and the Minister responsible for Higher Education

“It is essential that we provide the best conditions to stimulate learning and motivation on the part of our young people. Accordingly, earlier this year we announced investments earmarked for renovating

Québec's schools and for providing them with attractive school yards, and adapted, safe gymnasiums. The funding announced today is another tangible step forward, one that reflects our intention to offer students an environment conducive to their educational success."

Sébastien Proulx, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports and Minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region

"The Western Québec School Board is very pleased to hear about this investment in the Greater Gatineau school community. This decision will enable us to maintain the student intake at our existing schools, and to improve the English instruction programs that support our educational goals. I want to personally thank MNA Marc Carrière for his involvement and his commitment to this project. I know that his personal intervention with the Minister of Education, Sébastien Proulx, helped make these possibilities a reality. What an excellent way for the Western Québec School Board to begin 2018!

I also want to acknowledge the patience, understanding and consistently positive attitude demonstrated by parents, teachers and students as enrolment at the school continued to increase."

James Shea, Chairman of the Western Québec School Board

"I am delighted that the Minister of Education, Sébastien Proulx, has approved our request to expand the Greater Gatineau elementary school. The additional space will enable us to continue to develop our bilingual education services for our students. We greatly appreciate the steadfast support for this project that we have received from our MNA, Marc Carrière, and his support for English education."

Mike Dubeau, Director General, Western Québec School Board

"This is great news! Greater Gatineau school has been wrestling with space problems for several years. Today, we are receiving the funds to remedy this situation. Of course, nobody ever does technical work alone, so I am taking this opportunity to thank the staff at the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur. I also want to say a big thank-you to our professionals and our wonderful team in the Buildings, Equipment and Technology department for their hard work and drive. This project demonstrates once more that we can make a difference in the quality of life for our students and teachers."

Pascal Proulx, Director of Buildings, Equipment and Technology, Western Québec School Board

Background:

The funding announced today is allocated under the measure to provide additional space for general education, under the 2017-2027 Québec Infrastructure Plan. For the 2017-2018 year, this \$400-million investment is added to the asset maintenance budget of over \$1.215 billion, which will make it possible to continue renovating and upgrading our educational institutions.

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