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PROTECTING SASKATCHEWAN'S FUTURE WITH \$3.6 BILLION INVESTMENT INTO EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

The Government of Saskatchewan is ensuring students get their best start by investing \$3.6 billion in Prekindergarten to Grade 12 education, early learning and child care and libraries to help ensure Saskatchewan students and families have the opportunities they need to learn and grow.

Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions will receive \$2.5 billion in school operating funding for the 2026-27 school year, an increase of \$62.2 million, or 2.6 per cent from the previous budget. Over the past three years, the province has increased school operating funding by approximately 20 per cent.

Through this investment, an additional 50 Specialized Support Classrooms (SSCs) will be added in schools across the province, bringing the total number to 108 across all 27 school divisions. With specialized staff and targeted supports, the SSC model assists students in building stronger self-regulation skills so they are better able to focus and participate and enhances educator capacity to better support all learners. This year's budget provides \$2 million to continue the important work of improving early years literacy for our youngest students through renewed curriculum, teacher development and provincial literacy screening.

"With new specialized classrooms, a continued focus on early literacy and additional investments in modern school facilities, we are ensuring Saskatchewan students have the supports they need," Education Minister Everett Hindley said. "These investments in education, child care and libraries will secure a strong future for children and families across the province and ensure we are giving Saskatchewan kids their best start."

School infrastructure remains a priority, with \$123.8 million for school capital. This includes funding for three new schools - a joint-use public and Catholic middle/high school in Martensville - Warman and a new school in Shellbrook to consolidate and replace the existing elementary and high schools - and a major renovation of Esterhazy High School. Work also continues on 20 new schools and three major renovations underway to provide students with safe, modern learning spaces designed to support success today and in the future. The capital investment also includes \$20 million for relocatable classrooms to provide school divisions flexibility to manage local space pressures.

The 2026-27 Provincial Budget provides \$425.5 million for early learning and child care in Saskatchewan, an increase of \$12.3 million or three per cent. The renewal of the *Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement* effective April 1, 2026, provides continuity for child care operations and supports Saskatchewan families in accessing affordable, high-quality early learning and child care.

The budget includes \$9.2 million for the continuation of the National School Food Program which, alongside the provincial Child Nutrition Program, will enhance school food programs across all school divisions in Saskatchewan.

The budget also invests \$11.7 million to support the provincial public library system, which includes a \$175,000 increase for public library operating grants.

There is \$1.1 million for funded literacy organizations to support family literacy initiatives.

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