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## **PROVINCE AND LOCAL PARTNERS ANNOUNCE \$38.8 MILLION IN CAPITAL FUNDING FOR NEW NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE**

Regina's North Central community received good news today when the Ministry of Education, the City of Regina, the Regina Public Schools and the Regina Public Library announced over \$38 million in combined capital funding for the construction of a new integrated learning facility in Regina's North Central neighborhood.

The "Learning Across the Community" themed project will include a high school (Scott Collegiate), a child care facility, a city recreation complex, a public library and potentially other community support functions. Future plans include the possible addition of an onsite community health centre operated by the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region.

The Ministry of Education is a primary contributor, investing \$16.2 million in capital funding towards the school component of the facility. "We are very excited to be a part of this unique community initiative, said Minister of Education Donna Harpauer. "Our understanding of the way students learn has changed and our learning facilities are starting to reflect that knowledge. Working with our partners, we will create a community-oriented shared facility that will become a central hub in the community. It will provide unique opportunities for community members to become role models and mentors for students and will revitalize the neighborhood by enhancing the valuable relationship between school and community."

Regina Public Schools will contribute \$8.72 million. "We are very pleased to see this important project move forward," says Dr. Barbara Young, Chair, Regina Public Schools. "Learning Across the Community engages students in real world learning experiences. The building of a new facility in this community will complement and enhance the exceptional work already done at Scott Collegiate that has led to enhanced student attendance, credit completion and graduation rates; improved literacy and numeracy outcomes; and enhanced labour market attachment.

The City is committing \$8.8 million towards the creation of the North Central Community Learning Centre. "This community shared facility is a terrific example of the confidence the partners have in the North Central neighbourhood," said Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco. "A community is only as strong as its weakest neighbourhood and today's commitment will help to further strengthen North Central and our community as a whole. This facility fits well with the City's vision to be Canada's most vibrant, inclusive, attractive, sustainable community where people live in harmony and thrive in opportunity."

The City of Regina and the school division have also donated land valued at \$3 million for the project.

The Library's investment of \$1.25 million will support the creation of a new public library onsite within the new learning centre. "Regina Public Library is proud to be a partner in this dynamic new facility," said Darlene Hincks Joehneck, Board Chair of Regina Public Library. "The North

Central Shared Facility is a bold vision that will provide the community with a safe, caring and vibrant learning environment.”

The new facility, which has yet to be formally named but has been referred to in the planning stages as the North Central Shared Facility, builds on the vision developed by the community throughout eight years of planning and consultations. It will be a first for Regina in several ways: it is the first time a wide range of community services have come together in a facility devoted to one urban community, and the first time that learning experiences will take place within shared community spaces.

The project will soon enter into a detailed design phase and once construction begins is expected to take fifteen to eighteen months to complete.

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