

## News and Information

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## CENTRAL OKANAGAN SCHOOL PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD

**Kelowna, BC** – The planning for a new middle school for Rutland just got the green light and a new middle school for Lake Country is in the final stages of planning. Okanagan MLAs Norm Letnick and Steve Thomson shared the good news with the school board this morning.

"I'm very excited to see these projects move forward, thanks to the hard work of both our staff and our advocates in Victoria," said Moyra Baxter, Chairperson of the Board of Education. "Our district is growing quickly and I'm proud of the working partnerships that are moving us closer to meeting the needs of more students."

MLA for Kelowna – Lake Country Norm Letnick explained that the recent B.C. budget earmarked \$2 billion in capital upgrades for the Ministry of Education.

"A good education system is part of a strong economy," said Letnick. "I'm particularly proud of the world-leading outcomes students in B.C. achieve with the support of their parents and teachers. These new spaces will support that work, and I'm glad we can start planning to make them a reality."

The final project definition report for the expansion and reconfiguration of Rutland Middle School will go to the Ministry of Education by September of this year to enter the next stages of approval. The project report for Lake Country Junior Middle School was submitted last year, and is currently under review to advance to final funding decisions in the coming months.