

**Ford Government Improving School Facilities in Geraldton**  
*Province Approves Child Care Addition to B.A Parker Public School and Retrofit to Geraldton Composite High School*

**NEWS**

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Ontario's government is protecting what matters most by investing in local schools and ensuring our students have the skills they need to succeed.

The province has given Superior Greenstone District School Board approval to tender an addition to B.A. Parker Public School and a major renovation to Geraldton Composite High School. The \$8.4M investment will improve the learning environment for the students of Geraldton, as well as provide new child care rooms for the community.

The addition to B.A. Parker Public school will create 3 new child care rooms and 2 EarlyON Family and Child Centre rooms. This will bring 49 new licensed child care spaces to Geraldton. The renovation to Geraldton Composite High School will create Indigenous cultural spaces and support improvements to storm water management. This project is part of the province's capital investment program to support students with better learning spaces.

"The funding for the addition to B.A. Parker Public School and renovation to Geraldton Composite High School is great news for the community," said Greg Rickford, MPP for Kenora-Rainy River and Minister of Energy, Mines, Northern Development and Minister of Indigenous Affairs. "Our government is proud to invest quality education and modern learning institutions for small schools across our north."

"From modernizing our curriculum to revitalizing our classrooms and their facilities, we are investing in our students and giving them every tool to achieve their full potential," said Education Minister Stephen Lecce. "Our financing of the renovation to Geraldton Composite High School and addition to B.A. Parker Public School, further demonstrates our government's historic investment in Ontario's schools and our overall commitment to supporting our students and families."

"The Superior-Greenstone District School Board has a collective vision of school facilities as the hub of communities. This is a perfect example of that vision coming to life. Having a child-care and Early On centre, Contact North, Confederation College, an elementary school, a high school, and the municipal pool all under one roof is excellent for the community. We are excited about the enhancements that will be made to the BA Parker and Geraldton Composite High schools as a part of this project." stated Pinky McRae, Chair of the Superior-Greenstone District School Board.

Geraldton Composite High School and B.A. Parker Public School are located at 500 Second St. West, Geraldton.

**Highlights of the retrofit include:**

- 49 new child care spaces.
- 3 new child care rooms.
- 2 new EarlyON rooms.
- Renovation to Geraldton CHS to support improvement of storm water management and creation of Indigenous cultural spaces.

**Quick Facts:**

- The Ford Government is protecting what matters most by working with school board partners to invest in capital projects that advance student learning.
- 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 the next five years.
- The Ford Government announced in Budget 2019 that over the next ten years, Ontario is investing nearly \$13 billion in capital grants, including allocating over \$500M this year alone to for new schools, additions and major renovations.
- This massive investment will build new schools and help existing schools after a decade of Liberal 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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**Minister Rickford's Office:**

Sydney Stonier

Associate Director of Communications

[Sydney.stonier@ontario.ca](mailto:Sydney.stonier@ontario.ca)

Mobile: 416-219-3220