

School cuts won't be felt here

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Last week's announcement that the province will cut \$100 million in funding for school repairs will not affect either the K-12 project here or the St. Patrick's School playground upgrade.

The cuts made by the new government were to a special fund which was specifically designed to help school boards pay for projects that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This includes things like new windows and doors, insulation, heating and cooling upgrades, etc.

During the election campaign, the PCs pledged to cancel Ontario's cap and trade

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system (the Wynne government had joined a market system with Quebec and California), and is now doing that. Some of the money cap and trade generated was to be used to pay for the greenhouse gas reduction fund for schools.

Heather Latter, a spokesperson for the Rainy River DSB, said Wednesday the board will lose funding for several energy efficiency projects, but none

involving the Atikokan schools, or the K-12 project here.

At the Northwest Catholic DSB, superintendent of business Seija Van Haesendonck said that no capital projects of the board will be affected by this cutback.

The Ontario budget originally called for \$1.4 billion to renew and improve conditions at the province's 4,900 schools. It's now seven percent less at \$1.3 billion.