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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Rainy River District School Board Receives Capital Funding**

(December 18, 2007) The government of Ontario is providing planning approval to the Rainy River District School Board for a total capitalized value of \$9.8 million to address facility conditions for students in Robert Moore School and F. H. Huffman School. Both schools have been declared prohibitive to repair, which means the cost of repair exceeds the cost of rebuilding. The Board is looking forward to the planning and construction process, and will begin a design process by enlisting the support of parents, community members, and other partners.

Board Chair, Dan Belluz stated, "We have seen the impact of a new facility on student learning when it is combined with good teaching. Students in good learning environments will respond positively, as seen after completion of the J.W. Walker project." The Board has also received \$5.5 million to address the costs that they have been carrying for the Walker project.

Many options for new facilities must be considered, including technological innovations, the learning needs of students, and a culturally appropriate design. Director of Education, Jack McMaster noted, "It will be imperative to recognize the students that we will serve for the next three generations of learning and attempt to predict their needs so that student success will continue to prosper within the Board. Our Aboriginal student body is growing, and recognizing past and present contributions that Aboriginal people have made will positively impact the future. The Board's belief statement will be well served here: 'The Rainy River District School Board believes the strength of our past and unity in our present will guide our future.'"

The Rainy River District School Board plans to rebuild Robert Moore School on the present site, and has begun a consultation process to determine the future of F. H. Huffman School. The Board will be considering keeping the school open with minor repairs from School Renewal Funds, rebuilding a new school, or accommodating the Huffman students in the newly built Robert Moore School. The Accommodation Review Committee will complete a consultation process with a recommendation from the committee in April. The first meeting occurred at Huffman School on December 3rd, with the second meeting scheduled for January 15, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at Huffman School.

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### ***MISSION***

**"TO EMPOWER ALL STUDENTS TO DREAM OF THE POSSIBILITIES, TO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES AND TO ACHIEVE."**