

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**A next-generation school!  
Inauguration of Drummondville's new English elementary school**

**Drummondville, March 17, 2022** – The Eastern Townships School Board is proud to officially inaugurate Drummondville's new English elementary school situated at 565 rue Farrell in Drummondville. Students returning from March Break were welcomed at the new location for their first day of classes on March 8th.

The new school will meet the needs of students of the Eastern Townships School Board. Drummondville Elementary School is the only English-language school serving the city of Drummondville and the surrounding area, offering students a quality education in a bilingual environment. The school's population has more than doubled since its reopening in 1998.

An investment of nearly \$17 million was granted for the project under the *Plan québécois des infrastructures*. The new school is approximately 4,000 square meters on two storeys, designed in an "L" shape that frames the playground. There are three preschool classrooms and 12 regular classrooms, as well as a double gymnasium home to a state-of-the-art interactive playground called Lü.

The school was built according to parameters prescribed in the *Ministère de l'Éducation's* new *Guide de planification immobilière pour les établissements scolaires primaires* as well as the signature architectural technical document which include:

- Providing a new architectural identity highlighting Quebec's know-how by integrating wood in common spaces, aluminum siding, use of blue *fleurdelisé* as an accent colour, and finally by use of the common signage for all new schools in Quebec.
- Prioritizing natural light and natural materials to provide an environment conducive to educational success. The school has an abundance of windows both in classrooms and common areas.
- Integrating the school in its environment in a way that is lively, open, and accessible to the community thanks to shared facilities (the school has a courtyard on the first floor and a covered terrace upstairs).
- Being an example of sustainable development through the integration of passive energy sources (geothermal), local health-friendly materials, high energy efficiency, an acoustically friendly environment, and mechanical and natural sources of ventilation and light.
- Offering students collaborative spaces that are varied and flexible, adapted to the new realities of teaching that promote socialization and exchange. On the second floor, an agora adjacent to the library provides a welcoming space for students to gather.

*"We are thrilled to celebrate this important milestone with the opening of our new school in Drummondville, our first new construction since 1968. With its modern, state-of-the-art design, the school will meet the current and future needs of the student population which has grown steadily since the school reopened in 1998. We now have a learning environment that not only promotes student and staff success, but also allows them to thrive and grow."*

Michael Murray, President of the Eastern Townships School Board

*"A next-generation school like the one we are inaugurating today is much more than a beautiful building. It is a modern place to learn, live, and socialize that meets the needs of our young people. It is an environment conducive to educational success, designed to allow students and staff alike to develop a sense of belonging in their institution. I believe that our actions speak for themselves and can confirm beyond a doubt the importance that the government places on education. The students and school staff of today and tomorrow deserve schools that make them proud, and learning environments that inspire them to excel. Drummondville Elementary School is an excellent example of this, and other schools will surely follow across Quebec."*

Jean-François Roberge, *Ministre de l'Éducation*

*"Today is a great day for families and students in the region, especially those in Drummondville. I am confident that this new English elementary school will become a place where students will feel at home, and where they will find all the necessary comforts to grow and learn. I am equally confident that the same will be true for teachers and staff. This important next-generation school project would not have been possible without the collaboration of many stakeholders, including the Eastern Townships School Board team members and the city of Drummondville, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support and enthusiasm."*

André Lamontagne, Member for Johnson, *Ministre de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation, Ministre responsable des régions du Centre-du-Québec et de la Chaudière-Appalaches*

*"What great news for the Anglophone community! The arrival of this new elementary school in Drummondville will allow students of the English-speaking community as well as the school staff around them to benefit from a magnificent new building with modern architecture. Perfectly adapted to the needs and realities of young people, this beautiful school demonstrates beyond any doubt our desire to offer all children a learning environment that promotes their full development."*

Christopher Skeete, Member for Sainte-Rose, *Adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre pour les relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise, Adjoint parlementaire du ministre responsable de la Lutte contre le racisme*

*"I am delighted to participate in today's inauguration and to know that my fellow citizens of the Drummondville region will now be able to benefit from a brand new elementary school. I know this school responds to a need in our English-speaking community and I am aware of its importance in the region. Our government has chosen to massively invest in education, in student services and in our school infrastructure, and I am thrilled – not only for the people of Drummondville – but also for all Quebecers."*

Sébastien Schneeberger, Member for Drummond–Bois-Francis, Deputy Government House Leader

*“We dreamed of a new school for many years and today it has become a reality. I am very proud of what we have accomplished and what we have to offer our current and future students.”*

Dany Grenon, Principal of Drummondville Elementary School

*With 20 elementary schools, three secondary schools, two adult education centers, two vocational training centers, a distance education program, and an international students program, the Eastern Townships School Board is able to offer educational services to students from the Eastern Townships, Centre-du-Québec, and Montérégie regions. We offer our students the advantage of studying in a bilingual environment supported by caring staff and a student-centered, integrated technological approach to teaching.*

-30-

Source : Holly Bailey  
Communications Consultant  
Eastern Townships School Board  
[baileyh@etsb.qc.ca](mailto:baileyh@etsb.qc.ca)  
819-868-3100 ext. 55023