

Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre

Mr. Rodney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the crown jewels in Calgary-Lougheed is Fish Creek provincial park. Like so many others from our constituency and around the world, I'm always spellbound by the beauty of the great outdoors. But during a recent visit I was also mesmerized by the great indoors at the newly, extensively renovated Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre.

It all adds up to a greener centre for all Albertans, which is even more connected to its environment than before. The project replaces dated construction materials and increases overall space while maintaining the look and feel of the original building. It serves as a model of sustainable and innovative construction through progressive technologies in design, including Skyfold walls that provide convertible classroom and presentation spaces; Nana doors, which open rooms to the outdoor environment; high-efficiency heating, cooling, and water fixtures; a green roof upon which plants replace shingles; new educational technologies such as video conferencing; a celebration of each of Alberta's six natural regions and the plant and animal species found in them; and vibrant expressions of art courtesy of local students and artists.

School programming is already under way and, again, offers curriculum-based programs modelled on research, best practices, and a dedication to connecting students with their environment. Mr. Speaker, over 800,000 students, teachers, and volunteers have enjoyed award-winning programming at this important Calgary facility since 1982, myself included. I trust that all members of this House will join me in thanking and congratulating all involved as they celebrate the grand reopening of the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.