

COVID-19 Reliance Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to upgrade infrastructure at local schools to protect against COVID-19. The timing is perfect as boards wrap up their 2021-2022 school year budgets.

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board will receive \$10,750,000 while Trillium Lakelands and Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic school boards will receive \$7,485,000 and \$8,356,433 respectively. The funding will support building retrofits, updates and upgrades to schools and co-located childcare facilities.

“This funding will assist in addressing a range of infrastructure projects in our schools including HVAC upgrades, replacements, and automation controls to improve air quality and heating efficiency in schools, school portable replacements, school window replacements, improvements to in-school wireless access to support remote learning, playground improvements and the installation of touchless water fountains in facilities,” stated PVNC communications manager Galen Eagle.

Kawartha Pine Ridge board chair Diane Lloyd said the bulk of its combined funding will be dedicated to HVAC upgrades within schools over the spring and summer and offset already incurred costs.

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“We have already purchased and deployed 500 standalone/portable HEPA filtration units for our classrooms which do not have an integrated HVAC system,” said Lloyd. “The funding will also allow for installation of 40 new self-contained HVAC units for portables with aging systems, and sensor upgrades in the school HVAC systems to allow more timely and accurate information sent to our central control technician. We will also be installing touchless water bottle filling stations for each school.”

The funding will see the federal government invest up to \$525.2 million towards projects at provincial schools through the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, while Ontario is contributing \$131.3 million. The funding builds on previous investments in new