

# Planning for Ashmont school progressing

## JOURNAL STAFF

St. Paul Education Regional Division (SPERD) provided an update on the future of a replacement school for the community of Ashmont, scheduled to be completed in 2017.

“The K-12 school will provide approximately 7,190 square meters of space and will address identified building and programming needs,” according to a media release from SPERD.

The school is now in the design phase and a public unveiling of the early design will be shared with community members and stakeholders later this year.

“This will give community members an opportunity to receive information and provide feedback on the new school,” says the release.

“The board is delighted with the progress to date and looks forward to a new school that will provide a positive educational experience for students and staff and will incorporate educa-



**SPERD Chair  
Heather Starosielski**

tional best practices,” says Heather Starosielski, SPERD board chair.

The 2014-15 combined enrolment of the elementary and junior/senior high wings was 600 students. Plans for a modernized school shifted to the construction of a new school in late 2014 following a two-day session to evaluate the modernizations.

In December of 2014, Starosielski said she was optimistic about the plans moving forward. At that time, it was estimated that the planning process would take about one year.



**PORTAGE  
COLLEGE**

## Portage College Practical Nurse Program continues to be strong in St. Paul

**State-of-the-art equipment and great group of students shows program longevity.**

The Portage College Practical Nurse program is as strong as ever in St. Paul. With brand new state-of-the-art equipment and lab space, the program has firmly rooted itself in the community.

“The year has started really well, I’m very excited to see how this new group of students progress through Year One of the Practical Nurse program,” said Andrea Carver, the newest full-time Practical Nurse instructor at the St. Paul campus.

Carver brings an array of experience from many different healthcare settings, and maintains her skills by continuing to work within the community. She has now been tasked to bring along the next batch of promising Portage College nurses in St. Paul.

“I think the students this year have amazing potential,” she said. “We’re early in the year and they’re still learning the basics, but I’m particularly confident about this group.”

Portage College’s Practical Nurse program in St. Paul offers a blended style of learning that combines online teaching and on-campus labs to allow students from many backgrounds to take advantage of the two-year diploma program.

Even with a different learning model, the standard of quality in Practical Nurse instruction at Portage College is extremely high. For the third year in a row, Practical Nurse students scored a 100% pass rate on the first try of the provincial licensing exam.

“We demand the highest quality from our Practical Nurse students,” said Mardere Birkill, Vice President Academic at Portage College. “It’s very important that our nursing graduates in particular leave Portage College with the highest level of competency training and are fully prepared for their future healthcare careers.”

Portage College’s Practical Nurse program continues to maintain a strong reputation across northern Alberta, and the cohort working through Year One in St. Paul are poised to continue that tradition of excellence.

**For more information on the Portage College Practical Nurse program in St. Paul check out our free info night on October 15th from 5pm – 8pm at the St. Paul campus.**



**PORTAGE  
COLLEGE**

**Experience what the North has to offer.**

**Attend an info session at our St. Paul Campus.**

**October 15th, 2015. 5 pm - 8 pm.**

**5205-50 Ave, St. Paul.**

**For more information, call Meredith at 780-623-5549.**