



News Release

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Province's "Trees for Tomorrow" program takes root in the Surrey School District with tree-planting ceremony

City of Surrey's Maple Leaf Day also marked

David Brankin elementary school is hosting a ceremony to celebrate the importance of trees to the environment and the community.

The event celebrates funding to the Surrey School District from the provincial government's "Trees for Tomorrow" program; an initiative of the Ministry of Community and Rural Development. Through the program, the district is receiving \$24,440 to support an educational tree planting project that will see 104 trees planted on the school grounds of seven elementary and three secondary schools.

The event also marks the City of Surrey's "Maple Leaf Day" and "Releaf" program. As part of Maple Leaf Day each year, students help to plant trees in the community, and through Releaf, Surrey Parks facilitates educational workshops to promote awareness of the value of urban forests.

"By collaborating with the Surrey School District and the City of Surrey, we are partnering in this tree planting event, and the educational opportunity it presents for students and the public," says Surrey-Panorama MLA Stephanie Cadieux, on behalf of Community and Rural Development Minister Bill Bennett. "The Trees for Tomorrow program raises awareness about environmental benefits and the importance of trees in urban settings."

The Trees for Tomorrow initiative is part of the province's strategy to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by at least 33 per cent below current levels by 2020.

"It's great to see students get excited about not only learning to appreciate trees in new ways, but also literally getting their hands dirty to support a community and environmental cause," says Surrey Board of Education vice-chair Shawn Wilson. "The board is grateful for the support of the provincial government and the City of Surrey."

The ceremony takes place behind David Brankin elementary:

**10 a.m., October 16
9160 – 128 St.**

Guests include MLA Stephanie Cadieux, City of Surrey councilor Mary Martin and Surrey Board of Education vice-chair Shawn Wilson. There will be student performances and speeches before a tree is planted in the school yard.

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