

P3s problematical

By Joyce Neufeld, The Leader-Post November 19, 2013

The Wall government claims its plan to build 18 new public/separate schools in nine joint buildings will save taxpayers \$30 million using the P3 model (Oct. 23 Leader-Post). Don't believe Premier Wall for a minute.

The P3 record on Canadian schools is dismal, to say the least.

Calgary's Hamptons School had a leaking roof just six months after opening, causing the Calgary Board of Education to spend \$100,000 in repairs. In March 2009, Alberta's acting auditor general, stated that "the government has refused to provide financial details (on a P3 schools deal) even though it was signed almost six months ago". He concluded that the P3 savings were overstated by \$20 million

New Brunswick's provincial auditor in 1998 reported that Moncton's leaseback school cost nearly \$900,000 more than a publicly financed and owned project.

Nova Scotia's auditor general stated that after building 38 of 50 P3 schools, Nova Scotia reverted to traditional public-sector methods for future school construction at an estimated saving of \$2 million per school. P3s successful? Google the following for a reality check:

"Private Profit, Public loss: The Community impact of Alberta P3 Schools".

"The Devil in the Details: The P3 Experience in Nova Scotia Schools".

"New Brunswick's P3 graveyard".

"Risky business II Hidden costs, Security breaches, poor design" Provincial auditors from many provinces have discredited P3s as an answer to public infrastructure.

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