



Sunday » December
16 » 2007

Private firms love P3s

The Edmonton Journal

Saturday, December 15, 2007

Re: "P3 schools to be owned by boards," by Ron Liepert, Letters, Dec. 11, and "School-board gag order flew in face of democratic representation: Tough questions need asking about Alberta's P3 building plan," by Sheila Pratt, Dec. 9

What Liepert fails to tell us, but has been made very clear to school boards recently, is that they don't have a say in how these schools are financed. Either they take P3 schools, with all their restrictions, or they don't get the new buildings they so desperately need. This kind of strong-arming shows Liepert knows school boards rightly object to P3 financing.

Also, to suggest that there is no long-term lease-back agreement is ridiculous. For 30 years, schools will be tied to one single company for maintenance. This is why private companies love P3s -- they are guaranteed profits for the long term.

Of course, parents coming to meetings want schools, which the government has failed to provide for so long. But wanting schools is not the same as wanting P3 schools, and Liepert shouldn't kid himself, or Albertans, otherwise.

Joanne Ross, Edmonton

© The Edmonton Journal 2007

CLOSE WINDOW

Copyright © 2007 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.