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CANADIAN-MODELLED GIRLS' SCHOOL IN ABU DHABI

In Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), the Sheikh Zayed Private School for Girls opened on September 9. The school is modelled on Toronto's Bishop Strachan School (www.bss.inforamp.net), one of the oldest private schools in Canada; it is designed, furnished and managed by Canadians.



The Sheikh Zayed Private School for Girls in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Attending the school are 200 girls in grades 1 to 9. Grades 10, 11 and 12 will be added over the coming three years. Plans also call for construction of an annex to house a preschool for 100 children. Situated close to the Canadian Embassy, the institution has a swimming pool, auditorium and library, and is highly IT-connected.

The school is named for Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed, Ruler of Abu Dhabi

and President of the U.A.E. He and his wife, Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, had both visited Canada and wanted to create an institution similar to the Bishop Strachan School in their country. The principal, Rosemary Scarlett, is Canadian, as are the librarian and 10 of the 13 teachers hired from abroad. This will reinforce Canada's considerable influence in Abu Dhabi in the field of education. Over 200 Canadians currently teach at higher institutes of technology in cities throughout the U.A.E.

At the official opening, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan commented, "Our aim is the establishment of a school that will provide each student with an education that will enable her to live a moral, satisfying and productive life... We hope that this academy will continue to develop as a model of educational excellence."

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