



May 6, 2020

Dear graduate of Grande Yellowhead Public School Division:

On behalf of the members of the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA), I'm honoured to congratulate you on your Grade 12 graduation!

This is an important accomplishment that I'm sure you've looked forward to all year – perhaps, for many years. Graduation ceremonies are also an event that trustees look forward to yearly because our graduates are always so proud of the effort it took for them to reach this significant milestone. We have been fortunate to witness and share in those proud moments.

Except that this isn't like any other year, and the Class of 2020 isn't like any other class. We know that there is a level of disappointment that cannot be measured in not celebrating with your schoolmates, friends and family in the traditional way and time. Those closest to you are all also feeling regret at this significant time. You have worked hard to achieve this goal, and it means so much to share such a momentous occasion with those who are closest to you. I am sure many of you are finding alternate and creative ways to celebrate this great success.

To say that these times have been stressful and less than ideal would be an understatement. They have also been uncertain and unprecedented. Despite that I am certain of one thing: you, the graduates of 2020, share some distinctive character traits that will stand you in good stead as you pursue your future goals and dreams. In the face of adversity you have demonstrated inspiring levels of focus, perseverance, and tremendous determination in finishing your courses so you could graduate. You have developed a level of resiliency that will serve you extremely well going forward. We salute you and your entire division for the commitment to your learning.

Albert Einstein once said, "In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity." It is also said that one of the undeniable truths of this universe is that for every negative there is a positive.

You and the rest of the Class of 2020 have already demonstrated your ability to excel in the midst of difficult times. Your graduation from high school is proof of that. You now must seek to find the positive lessons learned through this trying time and apply those lessons going forward. Our sincere wish for you is that as you encounter all of the opportunities that await you, no matter how challenging, you know that YOU'VE GOT THIS!!!!!!

The members of the Public School Boards Association of Alberta are celebrating each of you! Congratulations on your graduation, and our very best wishes for your future endeavours.

Sincerely,

Cathy Hogg

President, Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

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