

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Education
228-Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue, NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Re: **K-6 Curriculum Implementation Delay to September 2023**

Dear Minister LaGrange:

It is with great pleasure that we begin to open our schools to parents and invite students to share in one another's company. It has been a difficult two years, with many of our families, staff members, and communities experiencing life altering events.

Grande Yellowhead Public Schools' Board of Trustees respects Government's wish to move forward with the Draft Curriculum. We have been working with our education partners to provide feedback and our Learning Services' team is working with teachers to begin the transition. Teachers generally approach curriculum change work with enthusiasm, as it is a chance to renew their passion for learning. Generally, curriculum change is also accompanied by a variety of instructional materials that will support implementation. Staff attend in-services and work collaboratively to share and develop resources. These very important processes have not happened to date.

We know you are well aware of the huge learning gaps and learning loss that students are presenting and will continue to present in the next few years. In addition, many students are having difficulty managing emotions, navigating a full school day, working and playing cooperatively with others, and being kind to fellow classmates. Of course, all of these concerns are largely the result of two years of isolation and disrupted learning. These fundamental classroom expectations are required in order for successful teaching to occur. Our staff must be focussed on their students' individual needs in order to begin to help them achieve as learners.

We ask that the Minister please consider delaying implementation to September 2023 in order that our staff may focus on the social/emotional needs of our students, which will include literacy, numeracy and well being outcomes, but within a program of studies they are already familiar with. This delay to September 2023 would also allow time for Alberta Education to provide quality learning materials to support successful implementation. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Dale Karpluk (Mar 10, 2022 13:51 MST)

Dale Karpluk, Board Chair

Cc: Mr. Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead
Mr. Shane Getson, MLA for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland
ASBA
PSBAA

