

April 6, 2022

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

Dear Minister LaGrange:

Re: Student Transportation Fuel Cost Concerns

We are reaching out to you to make your office aware of the need for financial support with respect to the significant increase in fuel prices. As one of the largest geographical school divisions – stretching from Evansburg in the east, to Jasper in the west, and north to Grande Cache – our buses travel close to 8000 kms a day.

The increases in fuel have created a significant challenge for our school division and the contracted bus operators (CBOs) whose partnership ensures the safe and efficient transportation of our students to and from their schools.

While we are aware of the Task Force's mission to look for possible efficiencies and actionable items to improve student transportation across the province, we ask you to *reimplement* the fuel price contingency fund to insulate school divisions and contractors from the fluctuating cost of fuel and provide additional funding to offset the cost of fuel once the fuel price average for diesel rises above \$1.20 per liter. This will help to ensure that we can continue to provide safe and efficient busing across the province.

The current fuel price fluctuations are creating an unsustainable situation which threatens our ability to provide busing services, placing our rural and remote learners at risk. We hope that you will consider our request.

Sincerely,

Dale Karpluk

Dale Karpluk (Apr 6, 2022 21:23 MDT)

Dale Karpluk, Board Chair

Cc Mr. Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead
Mr. Shane Getson, MLA for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland
Trustees for GYPSD
Carolyn Lewis, Superintendent
ASBA
PSBAA

