

May 24, 2023

Daryl Scott – Chair
Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan
Allendale Centre East
Suite 301, 6104-104 Street NW
Edmonton, AB, T6H 2K7

Dear Mr. Scott;

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, I am reaching out to share our concerns around cost containment and plan sustainability. While we acknowledge and applaud the ASEBP's use of reserves to mitigate rising costs over the last few years, we argue that the ASEBP should focus on ensuring this plan's sustainability for employers.

In 2022-2023, our district rates increased by an average of 15.8%. For 2023-24, the preliminary forecast is for our district of 10.1%, notwithstanding changes to experience ratings. Over two years, this represents an increase for our district of about \$750,000. As this increase is not grant-supported, this means the potential reduction of seven FTE teachers. As school trustees, it is very challenging to see the cost-benefit of improving an already stellar benefit coverage at the expense of larger class sizes.

Although the ASEBP Trustees' Report points out that increases could have been worse, we continue to see evidence of enhanced coverage, so we would like to know if the ASEBP could do more to mitigate premium increases. As there is no longer premium sharing with staff, the entire cost of these increases falls to the employer. While we endorse the ASEBP's mission, we believe that ongoing double-digit increases are not sustainable and risk leading to the demise of a mostly successful plan for covered members and employers.

As shareholders in the plan, we believe that the ASEBP needs to be responsive to the fiscal reality of school boards. Sustainability should be the number one priority, and we invite the ASEBP to present to school board trustees what its plans are in this regard.

Sincerely,



[Dale Karpluk \(May 24, 2023 17:26 MDT\)](#)

Dale Karpluk, Board Chair
Grande Yellowhead Public School Board

Cc Board of Trustees
ASBA
PSBAA
Carolyn Lewis, Superintendent of Schools

