

January 30, 2023

Martin Long  
MLA for West Yellowhead  
524B - 50 Street Edson, AB T7E 1V1

**Re: Mental Health in Schools Pilot: Second Call Grant Application**

Dear Mr. Long:


On behalf of the Board, I wish you a happy new year and hope this letter finds you well. As a strong supporter of Grande Yellowhead Public Schools, we are requesting your support and advocacy for our Division's application for the mental health grant. As you know, the Government of Alberta recently announced a second call for school jurisdictions to apply for grant funding in support of mental health projects.

Our Division is bringing forward a proposal for "wellness navigators" to align with Tier 1 universal health supports for our five high schools in collaboration with supports from Alberta Health Services, as well as the team members of our Family School Liaison Counsellors, Mental Health Capacity Building In-School Initiative, and Bringing Empowered Students Together program. The goal of our proposal is to build a shared understanding between our community partners, staff, and our students, to work together to ensure our students have timely access to the supports they need to develop positive mental health in order to be a fully engaged and successful learner from kindergarten to Grade 12.

Strengthening mental health and wellness activities in schools requires a focused collective effort – now more than ever. We believe our proposal will foster more opportunities for greater mental well-being throughout our K-12 system. Our *Wellness Navigators* pilot is a natural addition to the work already underway in our schools, and it reaffirms our commitment to giving every student the tools to be successful in school, and for the rest of their life. By working together, we can enhance our schools in being compassionate communities of care where everyone is supported to reach their goals now and into the future.

Thank you for your commitment to and support of public education for the educational success of all children in Alberta.

Best regards,

  
Dale Karpluk  
Dale Karpluk (Jan 30, 2023 21:12 MST)  
Dale Karpluk, Board Chair

Cc: Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division  
C. Lewis, Superintendent of Schools

