

December 14, 2022

The Hon. Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education
Office of the Minister, Education
228-Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister LaGrange:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) to request an increase to the allocation for infrastructure funding to school divisions. Specifically, we ask that the Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) funding and Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) funding be raised and limitations be removed.

As noted in the *Alberta Education Funding Manual* and the *School Capital Manual*, IMR funding is calculated based on several factors including enrolment, age of the facility, and eligible school space. In 2020, the province moved towards project-specific funding approval for a portion of the maintenance renewal funding through the introduction of CMR to school jurisdictions to extend the life of a tangible capital asset such as mechanical upgrades, building component upgrades, and architectural upgrades. Projects not approved for CMR because they cannot be capitalized include flooring replacements, PA systems, phone systems, and millwork replacements. Previously, jurisdictions could use the entire maintenance-funding grant to address priority operational facility needs; divisions are now limited to use IMR and CMR funding only for specific items.

With this change in funding, school jurisdictions' flexibility to address emergent and unexpected infrastructure needs has been severely limited. This shift to a CMR platform with a need for costs to be 100 per cent capitalized has left jurisdictions with a significant challenge for infrastructure needs historically captured under the *expense* portion of IMR funding. The *expense* line provides the Division with greater flexibility to attend to varied infrastructure needs as needed.

Along with the limited flexibility of the new infrastructure-funding model, school jurisdictions have seen a significant funding decrease in both IMR and CMR funding: since 2020, the funding to Grande Yellowhead Public School Division has decreased by 18 per cent. This substantial reduction in funding is limiting the projects the Division can undertake to maintain schools and support student needs. In addition, due to current market conditions and escalating costs in the construction industry, jurisdictions have seen costs for specific materials such as glass increase by 65 per cent within the last year. With declining or flat funding rates and no consideration for the current market conditions, school jurisdictions strain to keep up with the wear and tear on their facilities, with future health and safety issues a real concern if not addressed accordingly.

With the above factors taken into consideration, the Board requests that an increase in funding to both the IMR and CMR funding to school jurisdictions, and the restrictions of such funding be removed. We want to ensure that our school facilities are safe, healthy, welcoming, and well-kept environments for our students and staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. We look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Dale Karpluk

[Dale Karpluk \(Dec 16, 2022 13:28 MST\)](#)

Dale Karpluk
Board Chair, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division

Cc: Board of Trustees, GYPSD
C. Lewis, Superintendent of Schools
S. Getson, MLA, Lac Ste. Anne - Parkland
M. Long MLA, West Yellowhead
ASBA
PSBAA

