

December 16, 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 share our concern about the increasing cost of utility expenses for school jurisdictions and its substantial impact to infrastructure budgets.

Over the last three years, school jurisdictions have seen their Operations and Maintenance (O&M) rates declined anywhere from one to eight percent. This is despite escalating prices in natural gas, power, and carbon taxes. Electricity and heating inflation costs are a serious issue for boards, causing jurisdictions to re-allocate funds to cover these expenses, while trying to minimize cuts at the expense of classroom instruction. This situation continues to be complicated as heating costs to school facilities also increase in addition to natural gas inflation. Since 2020/2021, natural gas costs are approximately 55 per cent higher than the year before. Many jurisdictions also struggle with limited options for reducing energy costs and for achieving efficiency due to the age of their facilities.

With current inflation still indicating significant increases in the next year, the Board is requesting that the province provide additional funding supports to school jurisdictions to assist in covering the extraordinary expenses that are expected to continue to increase over the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the above proposal. We look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,



Dale Karpluk (Dec 16, 2022 13:30 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

