

The Honourable Demetrios Nicolaidis
Minister of Education
228 Legislature Building
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

The Honourable Ric McIver
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Commerce Place
18th Floor - 10155 102 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4G8

April 19, 2024

Re: Potential Changes to the Local Authorities Election Act

Dear Ministers Nicolaidis and McIver:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, I am reaching out to advocate that school trustee elections remain free from a political party system.

As you know, individuals who seek to serve as school board trustees are deeply committed to ensuring excellent public education for the children in their communities.

School boards are charged with the responsibility to govern the affairs of the school authority under the *Education Act* and are advocates for students to ensure education is given priority. The singular focus – to ensure excellent education for their communities children – ensures that trustees can be pragmatic in their work to:

- use available resources to set strategic priorities
- develop effective policies and practices
- drive provincial policy changes
- ensure financial transparency
- ensure parents' voices, students' needs, and school community thinking remain at the forefront in Alberta's education system

School board trustees are best situated in their role to ensure excellent public education when they can focus on the governance, policy, and advocacy work that aligns with the needs and goals of the school board on which they serve. We ask that you not proceed with changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act* that impact the objectivity of school board trustees.

Sincerely,



[Dale Karpluk \(Apr 22, 2024 15:20 MDT\)](#)

Dale Karpluk, Board Chair (Jasper)

Cc: Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division
Mr. Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead
Mr. Shane Getson, MLA for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland
Dr. C. Lewis, Superintendent of Schools
Alberta School Boards Association
Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

