

Martin Long
MLA for West Yellowhead
524B - 50 Street Edson, AB T7E 1V1
November 19, 2021

December 15, 2021

Dear MLA Long;

On behalf of the Board, I extend our regards and hope this letter finds you well.

As you know, the community of Grande Cache is losing their physicians who are shutting their medical practice. We have heard from our Grande Cache school leaders and school council representatives the significant impact this will have on the community of Grande Cache, our students, their families, and our staff. We are very concerned about how the lack of access to needed medical supports will affect Grande Cache residents and the Indigenous communities in the area. Businesses and industries will see the lack of access to healthcare and mental health supports as a challenge to investing in the area, and/or recruiting skilled employees to move to Grande Cache. The absence of medical professionals in the area is a negative situation that will impact everyone.

As elected officials, it is our shared hope that our advocacy efforts for our stakeholders' needs improve the lives and outcomes for our youth and those in our charge. In this case, the lack of access to health and wellness supports puts our students and staff at risk.

MLA Long, our Board hopes to connect with you to discuss how we can pull together to advocate for the Government of Alberta to prioritize the recruitment of physicians for Grande Cache and for suggestions on how our Board might support the MD of Greenview in their recruiting work.

Thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards and well-wishes for the upcoming Christmas season.


Dale Karpluk (Dec 16, 2021 11:34 MST)

Dale Karpluk,
Board Chair, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division

Cc: Board of Trustees, GYPSD
Deborah Whetstone, AHS, Manager North Zone Medical Affairs
Carolyn Lewis, Superintendent of Schools

