

The Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides

Minister of Education
228 Legislature Building
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

October 28, 2024

Re: Jasper Housing for Impacted Staff

Dear Minister Nicolaides:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, I am reaching out to share our appreciation of the recent modular housing announcement for Jasper, and to advocate that immediate priority be given to the Jasper schools' staff who lost their homes and their belongings during the Jasper Wildfire in July. As you know, nearly 40 per cent of GYPSD school staff lost everything. For the past 3 months, they have been dealing with grief, loss, and uncertainty as they navigate through the crisis. At the same time, we require our teachers and support staff – themselves parents as well - to be strong for the Jasper children who also experienced the trauma and who also lost everything.

A source of stability for our staff and their families during the re-entry phase and school startup was knowing that they would have housing in Jasper, providing them an appropriate landing space to focus on moving student learning and mental wellness forward. However, we hear that the accommodations for the staff are not always conducive to their family needs and may be compounding stress. Furthermore, as Jasper moves back into tourist operations, we are very concerned that staff residing in hotels may be displaced. We are concerned that the ripple effect onto our schools and the students will be devastating.

Minister Nicolaides, thank you for allocating funds to the modular housing – as I mentioned, it is very much appreciated for the long-term growth of Jasper. In terms of the immediate needs of our Jasper staff, can you please ensure that permanent temporary housing is a priority for our hard-working staff?

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Dale Karpluk (Oct 30, 2024 22:02 MDT)

Dale Karpluk, Board Chair (Jasper)

Cc: Assistant Deputy Minister Kindy Joseph
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. D. Parsons, Superintendent of Schools

