

The Honourable Jason Nixon  
Minister of Seniors, Community, and Social Services  
Alberta Legislature Building  
10800 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

January 31, 2025

Dear Minister Nixon;

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, I am writing to express our profound disappointment in the Province of Alberta's failure to honour your government's commitment to provide interim housing solutions for Jasper residents. It has been six months since the devastating wildfire in July 2024 and our Jasper students, staff, and their families are displaced, unsettled and now, without a hopeful future. People are anxious and dismayed that the government is refusing to help them.

In a letter you sent GYPSD in December you stated:

“We are focused on finding **innovative solutions** for housing the people who live in and support the thriving town of Jasper. The Government of Alberta will continue **working with the Government of Canada and the Municipality of Jasper** to restore the community to being a world-class destination enjoyed by citizens and visitors alike.”

The Jasper situation is complicated with our schools situated within a National Park, which belongs to all Canadians, and means there are legislated land restraints. The Municipality of Jasper's locally elected officials are the boots on the ground who best know the community's needs regarding housing. Jasper needs realistic, practical solutions to support recovery. We urge the province to assist with providing a basic human necessity, housing for a community post-disaster. Jasper's residents should not shoulder the weight of political bargaining and waiting for meaningful support.

The people of Jasper cannot afford further delays. Many of our staff and families are living in temporary housing in hotels and tourist accommodations which will end soon with the commencement of the busy summer tourist season.


We are calling on the Province of Alberta to:

- **Prioritize High-Density Housing:** Maximize the use of limited serviced land to provide immediate relief to displaced residents.
- **Uncouple Recovery Funds from Political Agendas:** Stop tying essential housing support to demands like permanent leases.
- **Listen to Local Leaders:** Work with Jasper's municipal officials, who understand our unique housing challenges and have been suggesting practical solutions.

The Province of Alberta has a duty to act with integrity, urgency, and accountability. Your leadership for immediate and meaningful action will mitigate the trauma our Jasper staff and families continue to experience. Our compelling future is that our staff and families can

move forward in rebuilding, and we can focus on ensuring excellent teaching and learning in our Jasper Schools.

Sincerely,

  
[Dale Karpluk](#) (Feb 3, 2025 13:16 MST)

D. Karpluk, Board Chair (Jasper)

Cc: Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division

Dr. Dennis Parsons, Interim CEO/Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead  
Mr. Richard Ireland, Mayor, Municipality of Jasper  
Mr. Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Education  
Mr. Ric Mclver, Minister of Municipal Affairs

