

Dr. Sam Wong, MD, FRCPC

President of the Alberta Medical Associations (AMA) Section of Pediatrics
Alberta Medical Association
12230 106 Ave NW
Edmonton AB T5N 3Z1

February 26, 2025

Re: Restoration of Program Unit Funding and Increase to SLS Grant Allocation

Dear Dr. Wong:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, I am reaching out to share our deep appreciation, and to add our voice and support, for your advocacy efforts on behalf of Alberta's vulnerable children and students. We were heartened by your letter to Minister Nicolaides asking for a restoration of PUF funding and an increase to the SLS allocations. As a society, every voice to champion children is needed. Your voice, as a pediatric specialist, is especially important.

As public school trustees, we take pride in our responsibility to ensure students enter society with an excellent foundation for their next steps and value for those characteristics we want to see within our society – inclusion, kindness, empathy, and compassion. In GYPSD, we believe in the impact of education in the early years of child development. We support PUF children in all of our communities, and we fund full-time, full-day kindergarten programming because we know what this means for the long-term success of kids.

Like your members, we too believe in early intervention and adequate supports as “essential to optimizing [the] educational success and potential” of Alberta's children and students. I am including copies of our Board's advocacy efforts for your reference; as well our Board wishes to be a co-signer on any of your ongoing advocacy efforts with the province.

Once again, thank you for your advocacy work for our province's children.

Sincerely,



Dale Karpluk (Mar 3, 2025 16:55 MST)

Dale Karpluk, Board Chair (Jasper)

Encl: Advocacy Letter SLS Grant Increase
Advocacy Letter Grant Process and Timeline
Advocacy Letter Full-time Kindergarten Funding
Public Funds for Public Education

Cc: Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division
Dr. Dennis Parsons, Interim CEO/Superintendent of Schools
Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards
Alberta School Boards Association
Public School Boards' Association of Alberta
Mr. Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead
Mr. Shane Getson, MLA for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland

