

## Funds for Classroom Improvement

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** - Grande Yellowhead Public School Division is pleased to have received approval for their Classroom Improvement Funding (CIF) proposal as part of the province's central agreement reached with the Alberta Teachers' Association in May of 2017. School boards and teachers have until December 15, 2017 to submit their proposals for the fund and all the money must be spent by the end of the 2017-18 school year. GYPSD submitted their proposal after their CIF committee, comprised of management, trustee and teacher representatives, collaborated to develop the parameters around the \$594,000 grant which is the division's share of the province's \$75 million classroom improvement fund.

As a member of the division's CIF Committee, Chief Deputy Superintendent Ewen Murray believes that the approved proposal will greatly support teacher efficacy when dealing with challenges in their classroom. "Our project centers around professional development (PD) as the committee felt that providing augmented PD, along with maker spaces and sensory room materials and resources, will have the greatest impact in our schools, and for our students."

The committee formally met to review the grant proposal and process on June 22, 2017, and developed a survey to assess teachers' wants and needs that was sent to division principals in August. Murray continued. "Three clear areas of focus came from the survey: new or augmented professional development opportunities in local communities; maker space/digital library resources and new equipment/ tools to support self-regulation strategies in sensory rooms."

Almost 80% of the funds, approx.\$475,000, will go towards new materials or non-capital equipment for individual schools, with the balance for in-house teacher professional development initiatives.

The province will be paying the CIF grant funding in equal monthly installments beginning October 2017 and ending August 2018.

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