**Grande Yellowhead**
Public School Division

Create... Achieve... Succeed!

May 9, 2022

The Hon. Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education
Office of the Minister, Education
228-Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue, Edmonton, AB  T5K 2B6

Dear Minister LaGrange:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) to share our concern with **Bill 21: Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2022**, introduced in the Legislative Assembly on April 25th, 2022.

Specifically, the requirement for permission assumes that Boards are not good stewards of public funds, and that Boards do not prioritize well-resourced classroom learning. Furthermore, the requirement for permission erodes Board authority, suggesting that the Divisions are not deeply aware of their own contextual needs. As we know, the growth of operating reserves by 80 million since the onset of COVID is due to many shifts to online learning, extended vacation breaks, a shift from in-person to online meetings, and fewer bus operational days.

At this time last year, our Board also advocated for an increase in operating reserves to 8 per cent. In the normal course of operations, our Board expenses roughly 6.0 per cent a month in cash. This leaves little room for unexpected issues and could potentially create payment issues if revenues are delayed. Industry standard is to maintain roughly two to three months of funds in reserves to ensure cash flow does not become an issue in case of an emergency.

Minister, we hope you will consider the benefits to school jurisdictions and their students by reconsidering this unnecessary step in seeking permission to apply our reserves appropriately and to increase the current reserve cap to eight percent.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the above proposal. We look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

*Dale Karpluk*
Dale Karpluk (May 10, 2022 08:26 MDT)

Dale Karpluk
Board Chair, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division

Cc: Board of Trustees, GYPSD
    C. Lewis, Superintendent of Schools
    MLA Getson
    MLA Long
    ASBA
    PSBAA