

Mr. Gerald Soroka, MP
Member of Parliament for Yellowhead
119-50th Street
Edson, AB
T7E 1V9

June 14, 2023

Dear Mr. Soroka:

Re: KIDS HELP PHONE

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD), please accept this letter of appreciation, and advocacy for, the Government of Canada's ongoing support for the **KIDS HELP PHONE (KHP) organization**.

As you are aware, the challenges facing youth today have grown increasingly complex and diverse, and it is essential that there are timely and effective supports to help those that are most vulnerable with access to professional counselors and crisis response volunteers. Recently, a spokesperson for KHP shared that the most frequent users of the services provided by the organization are children and youth residing in rural locations.

Since 1989, the KHP program offerings have expanded significantly. In addition to telephone counselling, the organization provides mental health tips and information, connections with other youth, immediate crisis support, and professional counselling – all accessible 24/7 and available in both official languages. KHP also provides counselling to Ukrainian and Afghan newcomers in their languages - Dari, Pashto, Russian and Ukrainian.

To assist teachers, KHP offers the *Counsellor in the Classroom* program to promote the discussion of mental health and well-being among young people. It's available to students in Grades 6 through 12 across Canada to learn about mental health, KHP's services and how / where to seek support. This service option is a wonderful enrichment to our Division's Pyramid of Supports and our newest Board Priority – *System Health and Wellness*.

Thank you for your commitment to and support of this valuable program that benefits all children in Alberta.

Sincerely,



Dale Karpluk (Jun 14, 2023 15:19 MDT)

Dale Karpluk, Board Chair (Jasper)

Cc: Board of Trustees
Carolyn Lewis, Superintendent of Schools
Public School Boards' Association of Alberta
Alberta School Boards Association

