August 12, 2024

Dear parents:

On behalf of my colleagues in the Alberta government and all Alberta Education staff, I want to extend my sincere sympathies to all of you during this very difficult time. We are all deeply saddened by the tragic loss of homes and businesses in Jasper and want you to know we are standing in solidarity and support with you.

At Alberta Education, we recognize that back-to-school is an important part of a healthy routine for families, and we are working closely with our partners in the Grande Yellowhead Public School Division and Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord to make sure your children can attend school at the start of the year. As outlined in the email you have received from your school division, my department is working with the school authorities to expedite resources such as cleanup contractors and accommodations for teachers and staff so that schools in Jasper can reopen as quickly as possible. In the meantime, there are several options to register your children in schools outside Jasper to start the year. I trust you will find a warm welcome in whichever school division you choose for your children.

Student safety and well-being are Alberta Education's highest priority, and we will continue to work with school authorities to provide updates as new information becomes available on when schools will reopen in Jasper. Please contact the local school authorities directly if you have questions about school registration, as they are in the best position to provide information on schools in their communities and to help enrol your children.

As we look ahead to the start of the new school year, please know that my thoughts are with you and that Alberta Education and all our education partners are working hard to make sure your children can have a positive start to the school year. For general inquiries, please contact the Alberta government [online](#) or by telephone toll free at 310-4455 (in Alberta) or 1-877-770-4636.

Best,

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education