

March 30, 2020

Dear GYPSD Families;

On Saturday March 28, 2020, **Education Minister LaGrange** announced that in order to support the UCP's response to COVID-19, a portion of education funding will be temporarily redirected. The province announced a 14 per cent **reduction in k-12 funding to all school jurisdictions across the province for May and June**. While the exact dollar amount is unknown, early calculations identify that staffing reductions across the province will be significant.

The minister's announcement was followed up with an email to school boards from **Deputy Minister Andre Corbould** which included the following instructions:

"Our direction to school authorities is to limit the use of substitute teachers effective March 31 so these individuals can apply to the expanded federal employment insurance program, as well as other federal support programs. School authorities should immediately begin to provide notice to educational assistants with the expectation that their services continue until no later than the end of April. School authorities should immediately begin providing notice to non-essential support staff ... School authorities should immediately begin to provide notice to board employed bus drivers."

As school jurisdictions are making meaning of the new details as outlined by the Alberta Government, this budget reduction will have an impact on staffing levels across Grande Yellowhead Public School Division. The senior team will be working hard in the coming days with school and central leaders to make difficult decisions about the remainder of this school year. This announcement leaves all of us with questions and uncertainty. These are uncharted waters requiring thoughtful, but nimble responses to this new and changing direction.

The province has signaled these funding reductions are temporary and reflect the shift to a distance and online learning environments. School jurisdictions are communicating with each other and with the government. We will be sharing pertinent information as it becomes available.

Great teaching is a collaborative act and as such, the Grande Yellowhead Public School Division's staff contributions and commitment to the success of children is valued and appreciated. **Our continuity of learning plan** is in place thanks to the professionalism, creativity and dedication of our incredible employees. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate this new challenge to take care of our students and our colleagues.

Please take care, stay safe and healthy,

*Brenda Rosadiuk*

Brenda Rosadiuk  
Board Chair

*Carolyn Lewis*

Carolyn Lewis  
Superintendent of Schools

Grande Yellowhead Public School Division