Enclosure No. 11

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA®

Oct. 30, 2026

Honourable Martin Long
Minister of Infrastructure
419 Legislative Building
10800-97 Ave.
Edmonton, AB. T5K 2B6

Dear Honourable Minister Long:

Re: Response to school board concerns regarding the new school ownership model

On behalf of the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA), thank you for listening to school board concerns and revising the Real Property Governance New School Ownership Model to exclude playgrounds and playing fields from Crown ownership.

As outlined in your Ministry's updated Frequently Asked Questions, this adjustment recognizes the important role of local partnerships in developing, funding, maintaining and managing these spaces. Playgrounds and playing fields support student learning, physical activity and community connection. They also reflect substantial contributions from school boards, municipalities, parent groups and community volunteers.

Maintaining existing local ownership and management arrangements helps preserve these relationships and addresses practical concerns about maintenance, liability and continued community access. We appreciate your Ministry's willingness to consider the operational realities raised by school boards and respond with a meaningful change.

Local autonomy is essential to effective public school board governance. Locally elected trustees are accountable to the communities they serve and bring direct knowledge of student needs, community priorities and local partnerships. Preserving school boards' authority to make decisions about the facilities and spaces that support education enables them to respond to those needs and remain accountable for the outcomes. This revision recognizes the value of local decision-making, and we encourage your Ministry to uphold that principle throughout implementation of the new ownership model.

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This revision also demonstrates the value of constructive engagement between government and locally elected school boards. Thank you as well to your Ministry staff for their work with school jurisdictions, municipalities and stakeholder associations throughout this process.

The PSBAA looks forward to continued dialogue as implementation proceeds, ensuring that school boards' experience and local knowledge help inform workable arrangements that serve students and communities.

To that end, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss under-used school property, the ownership and leasing of school buildings, joint use agreements and community use of school facilities. Addressing these matters together would help ensure public assets are used effectively and school infrastructure continues to support both students and the communities around them.

Thank you for your responsiveness and your commitment to working with Alberta's public school boards.

Sincerely,

L. Stewart

Dr. Lorraine Stewart
President, Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

cc: Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education and Childcare
James Johnson, Chief of Staff, Minister of Education and Childcare
Board of Directors, PSBAA
Member Boards, PSBAA
Troy Tait, Chief Executive Officer, PSBAA