



ALBERTA  
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister*

JUN 09 2022

AR117368

Her Worship Tanya Thorn  
Mayor  
Town of Okotoks  
PO Box 20 Station Main  
Okotoks AB T1S 1K1

Dear Mayor Thorn:

Thank you for your November 2021 letter expressing the support of the Town of Okotoks for a new school to be built to replace École Good Shepherd School rather than having the existing school renovated. I apologize for the delay in my response.

I appreciate the support the Town of Okotoks provides to local school authorities, including your efforts to ensure the availability of school sites. I am pleased by the collaborative working relationship established between your municipality and local school jurisdictions.

Alberta's government is committed to ensuring that every student receives a high-quality education that enriches their life and prepares them for success. Building new schools and modernizing old school facilities is one of the most important investments we can make in our children's future, and in the future of our province.

The original planning for this project explored the costs of a modernization and a full replacement school. The value scoping exercise in 2018/19 also considered the phased approach to immediately remedy the gymnasium and consider the future needs of the school board.

My department is committed to working with Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, and will provide up to \$100,000 in planning funding to further explore the condition of the existing École Good Shepherd School facility and identify the most suitable option for the accommodation of École Good Shepherd students. My staff will be in contact with Christ the Redeemer's administration to discuss the specific planning activities, which I suggest include a third-party investigation of the existing structure, an assessment of the current École Good Shepherd School site, an assessment of the proposed new school site and an additional visioning planning session for the accommodation of École Good Shepherd School students and additional enrolment growth. This planning will support the review of the board's current capital needs, further development of its capital plan and inform decisions about the current École Good Shepherd School project.

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I commend the Town of Okotoks on its ongoing commitment to ensuring quality educational space is provided to local students, and I thank you for sharing your perspective.

Sincerely,



Adriana LaGrange  
Minister

cc: Andrea Keenan  
Board Chair, Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools

R.J. Sigurdson  
MLA, Highwood