

AR93647

May 31, 2016

Mr. Sheldon Rowe
Superintendent
Peace Wapiti School Division
8611A - 108 Street
Grande Prairie AB T8V 4C5

Mr. Sandy McDonald
Acting Superintendent
Grande Prairie School District
10213 - 99 Street
Grande Prairie AB T8V 2H3

Dear Mr. Rowe and Mr. McDonald:

The recent municipal annexation of land from the County of Grande Prairie to the City of Grande Prairie and subsequent ministerial order to change school jurisdiction boundaries will impact students currently attending schools in Peace Wapiti School Division. The Minister has taken into consideration information received from both school jurisdictions and has altered the school jurisdiction boundaries of Grande Prairie School District to align with the City of Grande Prairie.

To ensure a smooth transition and stable education environment for students, 2015/2016 enrolled Peace Wapiti School Division students living in the annexed areas will be funded for transportation for the duration of their education programs at Harry Balfour School and Peace Wapiti Academy. Peace Wapiti School Division will be required to send a transportation application to identify these students and to ensure they meet all other funding criteria. In turn, Alberta Education will direct funding to the school division. Siblings of current students not yet enrolled in school would also receive the same benefit. If a student stops attending a school operated by Peace Wapiti School Division, this provision for transportation funding will cease.

I appreciate your efforts in keeping your community informed of the impacts of this change. I trust this decision will not impact education services and is in the best interest of students and families.

Sincerely,



Curtis Clarke, PhD
Deputy Minister