



April 7th, 2020

Families of Canadian Rockies Public Schools,

On March 28, 2020, the Honourable Education Minister Adriana LaGrange announced that funding to school jurisdictions will be reduced for the remainder of the 2019/20 school year to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The province is reducing monthly payments to school divisions based on educational services being delivered in an at-home learning environment, with the funds being redirected to Alberta's COVID-19 response. During the week of March 30th, districts also received additional operational details regarding staffing that are summarized below:

- The use of substitute teachers will be limited.
- School authorities should immediately begin to provide notice to board employed bus drivers.
- School authorities should immediately begin to provide notice to educational assistants.
- School authorities should immediately begin to consider other support staff positions that could also be laid off.

This is a very difficult situation with many difficult decisions that must be made provincially and locally. It is with sincere regret that last week, we distributed temporary lay offs to these valued employees within our CRPS family.

We want to make it clear that teachers and administrators will continue to support your children until the end of the 2019/2020 school year, which will be June 22nd for CRPS as per our previous communication regarding the calendar adjustment. For those children/students who are currently receiving educational assistant support online, via phone, etc., our educational assistants will continue to be in place until April 30th, 2020 to provide this support. After April 30th, we want to assure you that your children will continue to receive support through their classroom teachers and your school's learning support teacher, albeit with some necessary adjustments.

Once again, we want to thank you for your patience as we continue to do our best to respond to government directives in a timely fashion, while maintaining continuity of learning for all of our students. Please reach out to your child's school if you have any questions. They are there to support you in this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Christopher MacPhee
Superintendent of Schools