



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2025

RE: CRPS Celebrates Funding Commitment That Ensures Continued Choice for Stoney Nakoda Nation Students

Canmore, AB – Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) and Stoney Education Authority (SEA) are happy to share that Stoney Nakoda Nation students will continue to have access to Exshaw School, following a renewed commitment from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to fully fund the partner's Educational Services Agreement (ESA) into the foreseeable future.

As part of this renewed understanding, ISC has confirmed it has flowed full ESA-related funding for the 2025/26 school year to SEA, which is responsible for administering the funding received from the federal government. In addition, ISC has committed to a custom and exceptional funding allocation process that ensures 100 percent of tuition costs for Stoney Nakoda Nation students attending CRPS school will be provided at the outset of each federal fiscal year, beginning April 1, 2025, and will carry this funding allocation method forward. This change will provide much-needed consistency and reliability to support uninterrupted educational services.

"This is the news our families, staff, board, and community have been hoping for," said CRPS Superintendent Christopher MacPhee. "Our students and staff deserve stability, and this new commitment gives us the ability to move forward. We are grateful for SEA's continued partnership and ISC's assurance that full tuition funding will be maintained and paid in advance into the future."

"This gives everyone the clarity and stability needed to support student success," said Bill Shade, Superintendent of the Stoney Education Authority. "We have always believed in the strength of our partnership with CRPS. This renewed commitment from ISC allows our students to remain in the schools that they and their families have chosen - surrounded by the supports and relationships they've come to rely on."

According to MacPhee, while the new funding allocation model and continued support are welcome, financial uncertainty remains. As CRPS has no direct fund relationship with ISC, it leaves the division with limited ability to respond to unforeseen changes - as was experienced earlier this year when federal monies were delayed for the 2024/25 school year.

"While we cannot fully mitigate fiscal risk associated with potential future payment changes, the Board believes that, based on the information shared in recent meetings with both SEA and ISC, there is now a clear and firm commitment from ISC to continue full funding of the ESA - delivered on the agreed-upon schedule and in accordance with the timelines established at the outset of the federal fiscal year," said MacPhee.

He added, “Today’s announcement reflects what is possible when we keep students at the centre. We look forward to continuing this journey in partnership with SEA, and we remain hopeful that these new assurances from ISC will offer both partners long-lasting security and honour to the principles of Truth and Reconciliation.”

CRPS remains deeply committed to fostering welcoming, inclusive, and high-quality learning environments for all students in the Bow Valley, including the many Indigenous families who continue to entrust their children’s education to the division.

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher MacPhee
Superintendent of Schools
Canadian Rockies Public Schools
403.875.7458

Bill Shade
Superintendent of Schools
Stoney Education Authority
587.430.0241