



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ALBERTA

Hon. Sandra Jansen, MLA
Calgary-North West

Mr. Ward Sutherland
Councillor, Ward 1
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary AB T2P 2M5

Ms. Joy Bowen-Eyre
Trustee, Wards 1 & 2
Calgary Board of Education
1221 – 8 Street SW
Calgary AB T2R 0L4

March 10, 2014

Dear Mr. Sutherland & Ms. Bowen-Eyre:

I have recently received numerous letters from constituents sharing your concerns about the recent approval of a new Francophone elementary school in northwest Calgary. I have consulted with my colleague, Honourable Jeff Johnson, Minister of Education, and would like to provide the following information to you.

Following greater than expected increases to enrolment for the 2013/2014 school year, in November 2013, the Southern Francophone Education Region revised its capital plan to include a new Kindergarten to Grade 6 facility in northwest Calgary as its top priority. This project was recently approved as part of Premier Alison Redford's commitment to build 50 new schools and modernize 70 existing schools across Alberta.

As part of the board's capital plan submission, it has to identify a site for the school. Sites for schools are provided by the City of Calgary as part of the Municipal and School Reserve land, which is dedicated by land owners during the subdivision. Using the mechanism of the Joint Planning Coordinating Committee, which consists of the City of Calgary, Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School District, a number of the sites were declared surplus by the public and Catholic school boards and were returned to the City of Calgary. A few of these sites were then re-designated for use by the Francophone board, including the site in the northwest Calgary.

It is important to note that school jurisdictions are responsible for making decisions about where future schools are located and about schools and school sites that are surplus to their needs. This includes working with the City of Calgary as well as the other school boards within the City regarding land for future schools. I have advised my constituents that locally elected trustees are in the best position to evaluate needs, respond to these circumstances and set priorities for schools needed in the communities they serve. Government respects the autonomy of school boards to make these decisions. I encourage you to engage in consultation at your earliest convenience to reiterate the process and ensure any constituent concerns are addressed. I would appreciate your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Jansen', written in a cursive style.

Sandra Jansen

cc: Honourable Jeff Johnson, Minister of Education
Ruth Sorrentino, General Manager, Scenic Acres Community Association