



ALBERTA  
EDUCATION

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*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater*

AR85387

JUN 03 2014

Mr. Ward Sutherland  
Councillor, Ward 1  
The City of Calgary  
Historic City Hall  
8069, 700 Macleod Tr S  
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Dear Councillor Sutherland:

It has come to my attention that a number of northwest Calgary residents have been expressing concern regarding the possibility that a new school for the Southern Francophone Education Region could be built on a designated school site in Scenic Acres. Some have questioned the role my ministry and the provincial government play in those siting decisions.

As you are aware, the *Municipal Government Act* provides legislation that enables municipalities to receive land during the subdivision process and allocate it as School Reserve or Municipal and School Reserve. This is important for ensuring that sites for future schools are available for Alberta students. In securing school sites, school jurisdictions determine the demand for schools and work with the local municipality in placing school sites in area structure plans, which are subsequently approved by city council. The Joint Use Coordinating Committee (JUCC) has been established at the local level, and includes representation from the municipal and school authorities, to implement the plan. I would stress that these decisions on school site locations are made at the local level by municipalities and their school boards and that the province has not been involved in the site selection process.

It is my understanding that the school site at Scenic Acres has been designated by the City of Calgary for school use in the initial stage of planning the neighbourhood, and building a school on the property does not represent a change in land use. Subsequent to the designation, Calgary Board of Education (CBE), which had been allocated this site by the JUCC, declared the site surplus to its needs and it was transferred back to the City of Calgary. It was the city's decision to offer the Francophone board this potential site for a future school, and subsequently the jurisdiction selected the Scenic Acres site for its needs.

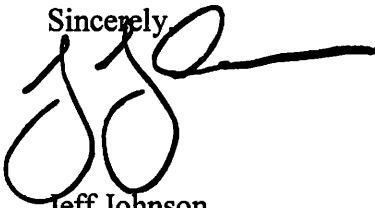
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I am informed that subsequent to local discussion, the Southern Francophone Education Region also has expressed its willingness to consider an alternative site for the new school and that you have been actively involved in these discussions. As the allocation of school sites and associated zoning is a municipal responsibility, you are well placed to resolve these issues with your council and administration. As such, I look forward to a speedy resolution of this matter.

Your local MLA, Honourable Sandra Jansen, has been a strong advocate on behalf of schools in Northwest Calgary and she has my full support to access education ministry staff to help facilitate a meeting of all parties if this would help to resolve the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Johnson  
Minister  
MLA, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater

cc: Honourable Sandra Jansen, MLA, Calgary-North West  
Ms. Anne-Marie Boucher, Chair, Southern Francophone Education Region