



8825 Scurfield Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta T3L 2A8  
Phone: (403) 547-9589 Fax: (403) 547-9579

September 21, 2014

Honourable Gordon Dirks, Minister of Education

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Education. We wish you success throughout your tenure. We thank the Honourable Jeff Johnson for his efforts to address the numerous ongoing concerns with the proposed construction of a regional northwest Calgary school for the Southern Francophone Education Region in Scenic Acres Park. We also note the ongoing supportive efforts of MLA Sandra Jansen and Councillor Ward Sutherland on behalf of the Scenic Acres' position regarding this project.

We believe it is necessary, as the former Minister has suggested, initiating a meeting with the Scenic Acres Community at the earliest opportunity to discuss the proposed location of Scenic Acres Park for this important publicly funded infrastructure project.

As a Community, we have not received a satisfactory explanation for the selection of Scenic Acres Park for a regional school site though we have approached this matter only after careful and extensive research. We readily support school construction and specifically this regional school development; however we contend the current location selection is not supported by any objective criteria and therefore is not in the best interest of the City of Calgary or the Province of Alberta. The current project sub-optimizes tax spending with irreparable damage to this fully developed and extensively utilized recreational asset. We have provided Ministry staff and the various stakeholders with an extensive outline of our findings and concerns with the statutory and procedural breakdowns throughout this process.

As a Community, we are surprised that the former Minister is willing to overlook a failure to comply with the ministerial order authorizing Scenic Acres Park to be handed over to the City of Calgary in 2005, thus violating requirements stipulated in the Municipal Government Act and the School Act. We note that the ministerial order from 2005 occurred during your term as CBE chair.

Scenic Acres' repeated requests to halt the current project pending an objective review of potential sites have been discounted for seven months. We would appreciate a meeting with you at the earliest opportunity in order to bring this matter to resolution and best meet the needs of the affected stakeholders, including the Province of Alberta, the City of Calgary, the Southern Francophone Education Region, and Scenic Acres Community.

Jim Palmer

Vice-President SA Community Association/Save Our Park Lead

cc. Honourable Manmeet S. Bhullar, Minister of Infrastructure  
Ms. Sandra Jansen, MLA, Calgary-North West  
Honourable Jim Prentice, Premier of Alberta  
Mayor Naheed Nenshi, City of Calgary  
Ward Sutherland, Councillor, Ward 1