

Wainwright Elementary Replacement School Advocacy

Writing Your Letter to Advocate on Behalf of Wainwright Elementary School;

TIPS/SUGGESTIONS:

1. Be Respectful

Your language and tone will greatly impact how your letter is received. A letter that is polite and direct will be more effective.

2. Be Personal

Share your perspective and how this issue has impacted yourself and your family.

3. Be Factual

Be clear, be concise, and be accurate. Address one issue at a time, stick to the facts, and clearly state your point. Limiting your letter to a single page will also improve its readability.

4. Be Proactive

Offer suggestions to improve the issue. Some suggested resolutions are included in the advocacy priority pages. Feel free to provide your own effective ideas.

Download a Sample Letter - [HERE](#)

KEY IDEAS:

- ★ We strongly believe the decision not to proceed with a new school was a missed opportunity for our students, our communities, and the Alberta Government. Delaying the project extends the deficiencies in place and increases costs to our division and the Government.
- ★ The perception that capital projects continue to be supported in metro and urban areas, with rural areas not finding the same consideration, is frustrating to our division, our communities, and our families.

As outlined here and in our capital plan, the need to move forward with a new school includes:

- The concrete foundations and walls on the south wing of the school experience major water infiltration during wet periods. This has had a significant impact on the footings and concrete columns in the crawl space of this section of the school;
- A commissioned, detailed facilities report from ONPA Architecture which included structural, mechanical, electrical, and roofing engineers identified deterioration of the concrete support columns, footing foundation, and walls due to the high-water table and

infiltration. Additional temporary support was installed as per the recommendation of the structural engineer;

- In 2020, Alberta Infrastructure conducted an extensive review of the facility including structural, mechanical, electrical, and the building envelope to verify the ONPA facility report;
- Other structural issues include spalling concrete, deterioration of exterior block walls, and moving concrete slabs which were included in the facility report attached to our capital plan submission;
- A sloped metal roof covers the school. The pan and batten metal roof design does not allow for snow stops or any system to prevent snow and ice from sliding off the roof. The falling snow and ice pose a serious safety risk. To mitigate the risk, we installed a temporary fence around the perimeter of the school to limit access in this area;
- The existing under-floor plumbing system has failed in several locations and alternate options have had to be put into place to keep the system functional. As most of the under-slab plumbing was installed in the 1950s and 1960s (and the heating/electrical systems were installed in 1984/85) due to age these systems reached the end of life;
- The heating, ventilation, and electrical do not meet the current codes and require a significant amount of infrastructure maintenance dollars to be expended to keep them operational;
- The exterior envelope has begun to experience deterioration with the bricks starting to come loose, as well as the window systems starting to fail;

Should a new school not be supported and continue to be delayed, the following will need to be expended to allow for students to be in the building:

- Heating upgrade to current HW System including:
 - heating pump upgrades, boiler upgrades including fire brick o-rings, breeching, and gas train
 - Pneumatic stats, zone valves, and controls including compressors, ventilation units including dampers, motor, and fans;
- Washroom/plumbing failures
 - Re-piping and re-routing of drainage;
- Flooring replacement due to health and safety
 - Carpet in administration and special needs area
 - Upgrade resilient flooring due to floor movement;
- Fire alarm upgrade due to device failure;
- Building envelope repair

- Patch and repair of existing envelope including re-installation of brick removal, concrete apron, and sidewalks;
- Replacement of asphalt due to failures.
 - Upgrade and maintenance of chain link fences installed to keep staff and students away from the building due to falling snow and ice off the metal roof;
- Handicap lift maintenance or replacement;

We anticipate those costs will escalate going forward with equipment failures and continued building deterioration.

This is the letter the Board of Trustees of Buffalo Trail Public Schools sent to Minister Nicolaides - [HERE](#)

WHERE TO SEND YOUR LETTER:

You can quickly send your personalized letter to any of your elected representatives by email:

1. Ministers of Education or Finance
2. MLA
3. Premier of Alberta

AND be sure to include Buffalo Trail Public Schools (buffalotrail@btps.ca)

Premier of Alberta	Minister of Education	Minister of Infrastructure
Danielle Smith	Demetrios Nicolaides	Pete Guthrie
premier@gov.ab.ca	education.minister@gov.ab.ca	infrastructure.minister@gov.ab.ca

Minister of Finance	Vermilion-Wainwright Lloyminster MLA
Nate Horner	Garth Rowswell
tbf.minister@gov.ab.ca	Vermilion.Lloyminster.Wainwright@assembly.ab.ca