

Memorandum

FROM Lora Pillipow

OUR FILE REFERENCE AR124050

YOUR FILE REFERENCE

TO Malcolm Lavoie
 Deputy Minister of Justice

DATE July 26, 2024

TELEPHONE 780-427-3659

SUBJECT **Alexandru Radita Fatality Inquiry:
Education’s response to the recommendations**

Thank you for your March 2024 memo regarding the seven recommendations to Education included in the Honourable Justice S.L. Van de Veen’s report following the public fatality inquiry into the death of Alexandru Radita. Alberta Education accepts in principle, six of the seven recommendations for Alberta Education but does not accept recommendation 6 as outlined below.

Recommendation No.	Education’s response	Explanation of response and steps to be taken
1	Accept in principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extended absence from school may be an indicator that a student could be at risk. ▪ School authorities have the authority to make all decisions regarding implementation of wellness checks in their local context, including when a wellness check is needed, and who will complete the wellness check. ▪ Alberta Education will continue to provide legislation, policy and guidance to support school authority decision making.
2	Accept in principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborative relationships between school authorities and local partners, such as police and child protective services are important. ▪ The <i>Education Act</i> provides school authorities with the autonomy to form and manage relationships with police and child protective services within their community. This includes decisions about the operations of their schools including whether to employ School Resource Officers.
3	Accept in principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alberta Education is committed to continuous improvement. PASI is updated regularly to make sure the system operates as expected and outages are minimal. New and/or enhanced features are also

		investigated for inclusion in PASI based on suggestions from internal and external stakeholders for improved functionality.
4	Accept in principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While school authorities make all decisions regarding implementation of wellness checks, the Guide to Education is reviewed and amended regularly.
5	Accept in principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust communication from the department to school authorities is critical. It is the responsibility of school authorities to determine how information will be shared with their employees. School boards may, and independent (private) schools must, make a referral to the Attendance Board when all reasonable efforts to engage the student and their parent/guardian have failed to improve attendance. Attendance Board activities are not intended to manage emergent situations.
6	Do not accept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The examination of an alert system is outside of the Ministry's mandate of providing leadership, direction, and oversight in the delivery of Alberta's education system. The role of the education system in alerting authorities of a child at risk is outlined in Section 4 of the <i>Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act</i>.
7	Accept in principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student well-being is a key objective. However, parent choice will continue to be an important aspect of the educational landscape of the province.

Please let me know if you have questions or require further information.

Original Signed

Lora Pillipow

cc: Honourable Mickey Amery, QC, Minister of Justice
Honourable Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Education
Honourable Searle Turton, Minister of Children and Family Services