

Memorandum

FROM: Malcolm Lavoie, KC
Deputy Minister of Justice

OUR FILE REFERENCE: AR 60412

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

TO: Lora Pillipow
Deputy Minister of Education
7th Floor, Commerce Place

DATE: July 22, 2024

TELEPHONE: 780-427-5032

SUBJECT: Request for a Response to Recommendations – JRA Fatality Inquiry

Please find enclosed a copy of the Honourable Justice J.B. Champion's report to the Minister of Justice regarding the public fatality inquiry into the death of JRA. This report will be publicly released on July 24, 2024. Please do not share the contents of the report in any manner that would cause it to become available publicly prior to this time.

The following recommendations may impact Education. These recommendations are copied below, verbatim, from Justice Champion's report:

1.1 – The government must consider providing professional assistance in how to apply for grants, which should be provided at no cost to the school system.

1.2 – There must be an immediate injection of funding and resources to provide the type of housing that will attract qualified and motivated teachers and staff to move to Ft. Chipewyan.

1.3 – It is recommended that the staffing needs be completely assessed on a semi-annual basis and further funding provided to overcome the shortages.

1.4 – It is recommended that consideration be given to monthly 'respite' breaks for teachers, either through additional days off and/or a financial allotment to allow teachers to travel to Edmonton, Calgary, or other regions of the province for at least one weekend quarterly.

1.5 – It is recommended that immediate attention be directed to implementing the process for the addition of an appropriate gymnasium for the high school.

1.6 – It is recommended that a process be immediately implemented between the provincial and federal governments to address this issue and move the school project forward in line with reconciliation efforts and sufficient to meet the anticipated needs of future students.

1.7 – It was recognized that it is necessary to follow the curriculum of Alberta Education, but there must be sufficient room for programming that would be specific to traditional indigenous ways and cultures.

1.8 – It is recommended that sufficient funding and training be provided that the schools in Fort Chipewyan have adequate mental health counsellors on site within the schools themselves. A school community liaison position should be created with someone who possesses excellent mental health counseling and communication skills and who will actively interact with staff, students, and parents.

3.2 – It is recommended that the appropriate levels of government undertake immediate steps to provide adequate and appropriate after-school care and a sufficient drop-in center for youths and adolescent in Fort Chipewyan.

I ask that you please advise the following:

1. Whether Education accepts in principle, does not accept, or has a different response to the recommendations.
2. A brief explanation of why that decision was made.
3. If Education intends to accept the recommendations, or to implement different measures, what steps will be taken in that regard.

A response to this enquiry is not mandatory. However, be advised that this memorandum and any response received will be publicly released and posted on the Open Government Portal: <https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/responses-to-public-fatality-inquiry-recommendations>.

Please email Education's response to Fatality Inquiry Coordinator Abid Mavani, at abid.mavani@gov.ab.ca. If a response has not been received by November 25, 2024 (four months from the public release date of Justice Champion's report), that information will also be made publicly available.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Original Signed

Malcolm Lavoie, KC

Attachment

cc: Abid Mavani, Fatality Inquiry Coordinator