



ALBERTA
INFRASTRUCTURE

Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Edgemont



AR 49008

December 16, 2019

Mr. Barry Morishita
President
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
300, 8616 - 51 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6

Dear Mr. Morishita:

Thank you for your November 13, 2019 letter regarding the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association's resolution on school site procurement (Resolution 2019.A12). I appreciate you sharing this information with me on behalf of the Town of Morinville.

The current planning process used by the Government of Alberta encourages school jurisdictions to establish site readiness, prior to submitting capital plans. As part of the approval process prescribed in the School Capital Manual, the Ministry of Education reviews and prioritizes school projects for the Provincial Capital Plan Submission, with technical input provided by the Ministry of Infrastructure. The Ministry of Education enters a planning phase prior to each school capital announcement to prioritize projects and ensure their viability. Site readiness is a primary consideration as part of this planning phase, which prompts jurisdictions to work with municipalities to establish site availability and address any potential risks or limitations, prior to project approval.

Current legislation further requires advanced planning and collaboration between jurisdictions and municipalities. Joint use agreements prescribed by the *Education Act*, as well as planning and development requirements mandated by the *Municipal Government Act*, require liaison between municipalities and school jurisdictions in order to ensure that necessary arrangements are in place before initiating school projects. This legislation is intended to promote early and consistent communication between all parties, thus promoting project success.

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We have had some challenges; for example, in 2014 Government approved two new school projects for the Town of Morinville, Four Winds Public School and St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy. At the time these projects were approved, the Town had not established ready sites. As a result, efforts to procure appropriate schools sites for both projects were strained, resulting in project delays. Going forward, my ministry will continue to assess Government policies and procedures on an ongoing basis to avoid repeating the same circumstances experienced by the Town of Morinville in 2014.

Thank you for taking the time to inform me of this resolution.

Sincerely,



Prasad Panda
Minister

cc: Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Education

Honourable Kaycee Madu
Minister of Municipal Affairs