



Office of the Mayor
City of Edmonton

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Mayor

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June 9, 2022

Honourable Prasad Panda
Minister of Infrastructure
Office of the Minister
Infrastructure
127 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Honourable Minister Panda:

The City of Edmonton is committed to ensuring sites are ready for school construction upon receiving provincial funding. For over 60 years, the City of Edmonton and the publicly funded school authorities that operate in Edmonton have had some form of Joint Use Agreements (JUA). Through this Agreement, the City of Edmonton acquires Reserve Lands for school and community needs pursuant to the Municipal Government Act.

The City of Edmonton understands the importance that schools provide to both students and the communities they're part of. City Administration works proactively to ensure school sites are assembled and developed to support school construction. Park development is prioritized through the city's 4-year Capital Budget process. City Administration works closely with school division partners to assess and review emerging school priorities and ensure identified school sites are ready for development. While City Administration works diligently to ensure school sites are ready well in advance of planned school construction, there are some challenges in completing the assembly of park sites that are outside of the City's control. These factors include market forces, developer timelines for servicing new neighbourhoods and non-participating landowners. These factors, and the City's limitations in dealing with them, must be accounted for when considering prioritization for school board and provincial funding. Early engagement between Alberta Infrastructure, the school boards, and the City of Edmonton, prior to project announcements, may alleviate issues of site readiness.

With the adoption of Edmonton's municipal development plan, The City Plan, in December 2020, the City of Edmonton is targeting a greater percentage of population growth in existing neighbourhoods over time. Adapting to more redevelopment in our city requires ongoing commitment from all partners to ensure the effective and successful delivery of school and community parks. This means ensuring flexible designs of schools to adapt to

smaller or constrained sites and working collaboratively to resolve servicing challenges within the city's established neighbourhoods.

The City of Edmonton and School Board partners are currently working to renew and update the Joint Use Agreement. This renewal affords an opportunity to look critically at how best to modernize our partnership to best address the needs of each of the partners and ensure school and park development aligns with the broader strategic goals of the City of Edmonton as outlined in The City Plan.

The City of Edmonton looks forward to continuing the dialogue on the successful delivery of school projects for the benefit of our local communities.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Sohi". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Amarjeet Sohi
Mayor

c: Honorable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education
Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Cathy Heron, President - Alberta Municipalities