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June 28, 2023

Honourable Pete Guthrie  
Minister of Infrastructure  
104 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
Via: [infrastructure.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:infrastructure.minister@gov.ab.ca)

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides  
Minister of Education  
228 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
Via: [education.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:education.minister@gov.ab.ca)

Dear Ministers Guthrie and Nicolaides:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton Public School Division, I wish to congratulate you on your recent appointments to your critical roles within the Province of Alberta. I wish also to extend a warm welcome to Deputy Minister Pillipow, and our pleasure to continue working with Deputy Minister Persson and her team on so many important infrastructure files.

Minister Nicolaides, it was a pleasure to meet with you earlier this month. The meeting confirmed our shared desire to collaborate, innovate and ensure student success. Minister Guthrie, I look forward to meeting with you in the near future, and look forward to discussing these and other shared goals.

We recognize that you are busy settling into your new and expansive portfolios; however, opted not to delay in sending this request given the status of the school projects recently announced for Edmonton Public in the most recent provincial capital plan. Indeed, as your team, Minister Nicolaides, embarks upon project development and considers project delivery methodologies, it is our hope that you will consider our proposal below.

Edmonton Public has a long and established history of delivering high quality school construction projects on time and on budget, both through traditional project delivery methods such as Design-Bid-Build, and through Integrated Project Delivery (IPD). Examples of our most successful IPD projects include Dr. Anne Anderson School (opened in 2021), Thelma Chalifoux and Soraya Hafez schools (opened in 2020), and Mill Creek School (replacement project, opened in 2019). Please consider this letter an open invitation for yourselves and your teams to visit any of these facilities—it would be our pleasure to highlight to you in person the accomplishments of our highly capable infrastructure planning and project delivery teams.

To name but a few highlights, through IPD we have successfully opened seven school buildings, each demonstrating the value of this delivery method. These exemplary learning environments have reliably been constructed within budget and on time, meeting or exceeding outcomes for other provincial school projects while providing the additional value for money afforded by the incentivization paradigm inherent to IPD.

In addition to working collaboratively to find efficiencies in both schedule and budget, project teams were also able to ensure that the materials selected were carefully considered in terms of longevity, providing additional value through long-term maintainability and sustainability. Under the IPD model, the teams were able to implement innovative construction methods (such as using precast concrete for gymnasiums) to achieve cost and schedule efficiencies, while allowing Edmonton Public to ensure that building namesakes are reflected in the building design (as an example, Dr. Anne Anderson School honours the school's namesake through the use of Indigenous materials, design elements, landscaping and colours, without compromising the overall project budget). With a view to alleviate pressure upon Alberta Infrastructure to deliver the newly announced school projects across the province—Edmonton Public proposes to deliver as grant-funded projects the Edgemont K–9 school (full construction funding announced) and Glenriding Heights 7–12 school (design funding announced), and/or any of the other Edmonton Public projects announced for planning or pre-planning. In addition, should the Government of Alberta be amenable, we propose to deliver the schools via IPD as “case study” projects with the full participation of—and observation by—government officials, with a view to evaluating and comparing processes, outcomes and value for money against the traditional and/or P3 school projects delivered simultaneously elsewhere in the province.

This proposal affords an opportunity to collaborate and compare in real-time the costs and benefits of IPD in order to inform future provincial decisions around school project delivery.

Should you find this proposal worthy of further consideration, please contact me or have your staff contact Cliff Richard, Chief Infrastructure and Technology Officer, Edmonton Public Schools, at 780-429-8022 or [cliff.richard@epsb.ca](mailto:cliff.richard@epsb.ca).

I look forward to hearing from you, and congratulations again on your exciting new roles in service to the people of Alberta.

Sincerely,



Trisha Estabrooks  
Board Chair

c: Mary Persson, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure  
Lora Pillipow, Deputy Minister of Education  
Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools