



# News Release

## RDCRS will see further funding shortfall of an additional \$2.75 million from the 2019-2020 provincial budget

*For immediate release – November 28, 2019*

At the Board Meeting yesterday evening, Trustees were presented with the details of the 2019-2020 budget. Since the announcement of the provincial budget, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools (RDCRS) has learned more of how the reduction of funding will create an even greater impact on the division than originally anticipated.

In spring 2019, the division predicted a reduction in funding for the 2019-2020 school year of approximately \$2 million to their overall budget of \$114 million. To prepare for this school year, the division implemented proactive measures to address this anticipated funding shortfall. **This included changing the division's** professional development model and reallocating staff from Central Office to schools.

**"We have worked hard to ensure that our budget decisions** have the least impact on students and **the classroom as possible,"** said Board Chair, Anne Marie Watson at Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

After a more detailed analysis of Budget 2019, it has become apparent that **the division's** reduction in funding was more extensive than originally anticipated. The division accounted for the \$2 million shortfall in the spring, but now is faced with an additional \$2.75 million mid-way through the school year. As a result, this school year will see a total reduction in funding of \$4.75 million.

This is due to the elimination of three envelopes of funding (the Classroom Improvement Fund, the Class Size Initiative and the School Fees Grant). RDCRS received a one time

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transition grant, which was meant to soften the impact. However, the transitional funding is significantly less than what we received in the past through the three envelopes of funding. Also, as RDCRS continues to see new student enrolment, the division needed to hire more staff to achieve manageable classroom sizes, as well as subsidize the areas of maintenance and transportation. Even with the new student enrolment revenue, the division will see a further funding shortfall of \$2.75 million.

RDCRS will address this additional \$2.75 million unanticipated shortfall by:

- \$2 million will be used from reserves
- \$750,000 will come from reducing direct services, purchases, software, materials and expenses. This will also include not replacing some current vacant positions.

*Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,480 students in 21 schools in Red Deer, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, Blackfalds and Olds. It also supports the learning of over 600 students in a Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and within the means of the Division.*

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