Month XX, 2023

Cut and paste MLA/Minister name

Cut and paste MLA email address

*Delivered by email*

**Re: Insurance Concerns – The Foothills School Division**

Dear Honourable insert MLA/Minister Name,

I am writing in support of the Foothills School Division and our shared concern regarding the exceptional increase in insurance costs. The Board has been quick to recognize the work that you have done to help alleviate the problem; from assisting the new insurance reciprocal ARMIC (Alberta Risk Managed Insurance Consortium) to providing direct funding; however, more work needs to be done.

I understand that in the 2021/22 school year the Division has experienced close to a **400% increase** in its insurance costs since the 2018/19 school year. While Foothills has been able to alleviate the issue by self-advocating, and accessing reserves, coupled with what help you have been able to provide, those dollars are now used up. Numbers show $1,300,000 more spent on insurance than four years ago – reductions that come principally from operating budgets and staff reductions—**taking away valuable resources from our students**. I thank Alberta Education for assisting school boards by providing additional funding for insurance costs over the past few years, and for also providing back stopping to the insurance providers. Your support has helped, but classrooms continue to be negatively impacted by this ongoing issue.

I am adding my voice to the Board of Trustees and strongly request that the Government do all it can to help the Division. Whether through more funding to cover these costs or additional efforts to assist in reducing them, this $1.3M needs to return to classrooms as soon as possible.

Please support my request that Alberta Education continues to work with Treasury & Infrastructure to alleviate these onerous cost pressures. The preference continues to be a solution that manages insurance at the provincial level. If that is not possible, please continue to provide targeted funding to help Foothills School Division costs stay more in line with what other divisions are experiencing.

Thank you for your assistance in helping to level the playing field and assistance in alleviating this financial burden that is ultimately affecting our youth.

Respectfully,

Insert Name