Month XX, 2023

Cut and paste MLA/Minister name

Cut and paste MLA email address

*Delivered by email*

**Re: Equity for rural schools in Alberta**

Dear Honourable insert MLA/Minister Name,

My name is <insert name here> and as a resident of <insert rural municipality here>, I am writing to you today to ask for your advocacy and support of equity for Rural Education.

Like all rural schools, my child’s school is the heart of our community. Besides being a centre of learning, it is also a centre supporting the social, health, and cultural needs of our community. The shared values, camaraderie, and industry opportunities are what make <insert your community> the vibrant and wonderful place it is. Unfortunately, rural communities like my own are experiencing more and more obstacles to success – among the most significant is insufficient funding of our schools.

I have learned that funding for rural schools changed in the 2020-2021 provincial budget. In the past two years alone, this change in funding has limited our rural schools from providing the same level of educational opportunities as urban schools. Families are choosing to move into urban centres, decimating our small community populations. Grants that are issued on a per-student basis do not take into consideration these changing populations. You cannot hire part of a teacher, or only heat part of the school, even when enrollment declines.

Living in a rural community, I know that community innovation can help overcome our challenges, but we also need local talent and vision. We cannot simply adopt metropolitan solutions. For solutions to take hold, they need to be supported by equity-based resources. Equity is not the same as equality and rural schools must be funded in an equitable way.

Thank you for your consideration on how you can revitalize small Alberta communities through investing in rural schools.

Respectfully,

Insert Name