



ALBERTA

Education  
and Childcare

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*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary-Bow*

AR 137356

March 3, 2026

Ms. Theresa Letendre  
Board Chair, Board of Trustees  
Foothills School Division  
PO Box 5700  
High River AB T1V 1M7

Dear Ms. Letendre:

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta, the Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, and me, following up on earlier correspondence regarding integrated youth supports in the Foothills region. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Your letter highlights the important efforts underway in the Foothills region to provide coordinated approaches for early identification, navigation, case management, and integrated supports. This model reflects many of the cross-ministry priorities our government continues to strengthen for children and youth across Alberta.

I want to acknowledge the growing complexity you describe among students in your region. These pressures are echoed in Alberta's [Aggression and Complexity in Schools Action Team Final Report](#). To address behavioural, mental health, and learning needs in schools, Alberta's government has established the [Class Size and Complexity Cabinet Committee](#), which will roll out solutions informed by the action team's recommendations. The committee will work closely with school authorities, community leaders, and academic experts to ensure it is guided by expert advice as it makes advances to support Alberta's students and schools.

You also raise important considerations about the role and scope of CASA Classrooms. Section 33 of the [Education Act](#) requires school authorities to provide a continuum of supports and services consistent with the principles of inclusive education, to help ensure that all students have the opportunity to meet educational standards. Education and Childcare recognizes the value of wrap-around services for students to meet the diverse needs of students across the continuum of supports and that clinical interventions are not required for many learners.

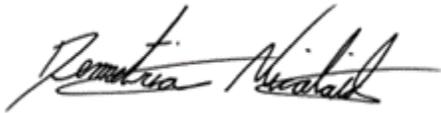
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With respect to your request for the Foothills region to be considered as an expansion site for an Integrated Youth Services (IYS) Hub, I would like to note that decisions regarding IYS program development and site selection rest outside the mandate of Education and Childcare. Although our ministry is not responsible for determining IYS expansion sites, we encourage you to continue engaging with the ministries and organizations leading IYS planning.

Thank you again for your leadership and for sharing the insights of the Foothills Community Coalition. Your advocacy is valuable as we continue working together to strengthen supports for students across Alberta.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaides". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD  
Minister of Education and Childcare

cc: Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction