

May 5, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Board Chairs for both Christ The Redeemer Catholic Schools and Foothills School Division, we are writing to express our shared and growing concern regarding the impact of rapid residential development in Okotoks on local infrastructure— most notably its effects on traffic congestion, student safety, and transportation access along 32nd Street East.

The corridor along 32nd Street, which serves as a main access point to both Holy Trinity Academy and Meadow Ridge School, has become increasingly congested due to the expansion of the surrounding neighbourhoods. The volume of student and commuter traffic, combined with limited roadway infrastructure, has created significant delays and safety risks for students, staff, and families. These challenges are especially pronounced during school start and dismissal times.

We are also mindful of new infrastructure emerging in the area—most notably the Okotoks Pickleball & Tennis Centre, currently under construction directly in front of Meadow Ridge School. With 24 indoor and outdoor pickleball courts and associated amenities, this facility is expected to generate a high volume of visitor traffic upon its opening in 2026. While we appreciate the importance of community recreation, the increased vehicle flow—especially during peak school hours—will only add to the existing congestion and safety concerns along the corridor.

Of additional concern is the use of the road between Holy Trinity Academy and St. James Parish, which currently functions as a designated bus loop and pedestrian zone. This area was never intended to serve as a public roadway. However, as residential development to the east of 32nd Street continues, there appears to be increased interest in formalizing this space as a traffic route to accommodate new subdivisions. We believe this poses a direct risk to student safety, creates bus route challenges, and contributes to overall transportation congestion. Ultimately, turning this thoroughfare into a public roadway would significantly undermine the functional use of the space for school and parish operations.

We respectfully urge the Town of Okotoks and the appropriate provincial departments to prioritize infrastructure enhancements that ensure safe and efficient access to our schools. This includes:

- Reviewing and updating traffic planning for 32nd Street East
- Protecting existing student-focused pedestrian and bus zones
- Proactively mitigating congestion caused by new developments and recreational facilities

We note that the Town's *2022–2025 Strategic Plan* emphasizes responsible growth and quality infrastructure, and that the *10-Year Capital Plan* identifies needed improvements at the intersection of 32nd Street and 338th Avenue. Recognizing the challenges associated with securing adequate funding for such infrastructure projects, we are committed to supporting the Town's advocacy efforts to provincial and federal governments. Our school divisions are prepared to collaborate and lend our voices to initiatives aimed at obtaining the necessary resources to improve transportation infrastructure in this rapidly growing community.

We are proud of our thriving school communities and remain committed to working collaboratively with municipal and provincial partners to ensure that student safety and well-being remain at the forefront of infrastructure planning decisions. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Town to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Andrea Keenan
Board Chair
Christ The Redeemer Catholic Schools
akeenan@redeemer.ab.ca

Theresa Letendre
Board Chair
Foothills School Division
letendret@fsd38.ab.ca

cc: Board of Trustees, Christ The Redeemer Catholic Schools
Board of Trustees, Foothills School Division
Superintendent, Christ The Redeemer Catholic Schools
Superintendent, Foothills School Division