



ALBERTA
ADVANCED EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Fish Creek*

AR 74663

JUN 11 2026

His Worship Gord MacLeod
Mayor
Town of Fairview
P.O. Box 730
Fairview AB T0H 1L0

Dear Mayor MacLeod:

Thank you for leading the Fairview Regional College Transition Committee as it transitions to be the board for the newly established Fairview Regional College Society (FRCS), and engaging with Advanced Education and post-secondary partners. Alberta's government recognizes the important role the Fairview campus has played in serving learners across northern Alberta and the strong connection the community has to the campus and its programs.

As Minister of Advanced Education, I am accountable and responsible for the entire post-secondary system in Alberta. This means that decisions related to post-secondary education must balance regional access considerations with the long-term sustainability of programs and institutions and with the responsible stewardship of public dollars. To implement the Made in Peace Country solution, my priority is to ensure the success of programs offered by Northern Lakes College (NLC) at Fairview and by Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) at Grande Prairie. The immediate focus of my ministry is to support the delivery of approved post-secondary programming at Fairview and Grande Prairie, and to ensure a smooth and orderly transition at Fairview for students and staff at both institutions and their respective communities.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to questions brought forward by community members following the March 2026 townhall on the future of the Fairview Campus. Attached to this letter are responses to the specific questions brought forward to Advanced Education officials. These responses reflect current decisions based on the established authorities of post-secondary institutions and the Government of Alberta.

Your letter raised questions and asked for confirmation on issues that have not yet been fully resolved. I will provide you with my perspective of the current state of those issues.

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1. Removal of Trades Equipment

I am advised that NWP and NLC are very close to a full inventory of Fairview equipment/tools/chattel they have agreed to divide in support of ministry-approved programs to be offered at both the Grande Prairie and Fairview campuses in September 2026. I expect to see this inventory within this summer and understand it will list items to be moved to Grande Prairie and items to stay at Fairview and be legally transferred to NLC or the future FRCS. I understand that in addition to issues discussion tables initiated by Advanced Education officials, legal counsel has been engaged in this transfer process by all parties and will provide advice on the documentation required to transfer property from NWP to the designated recipients.

As part of the removal of some key pieces of equipment for the Heavy Equipment Technician and Automotive Service Technician programs to begin in Grande Prairie in September 2026, I will ensure that the buildings housing these programs are left in a state that will enable them to be repurposed or outfitted with equipment to support NLC to offer those trades programs in future, pending Advanced Education approval.

2. Future of Trades Programming and Seats

The decisions for future programming at Fairview or any post-secondary campus are influenced by several factors including demand by students, needs of the labour force, industry supports and interests, and the cost of program delivery. Based on Advanced Education's own data, the cost of program delivery at northern Alberta campuses is significantly higher than that of campuses located in other parts of the province. Fairview costs have traditionally followed this pattern with consistent but relatively small student enrolment numbers, leading to high program delivery costs relative to operating expenses.

As I mentioned at the outset, I must look across the system to balance access to programs with the overall funding available to the system. I commit to giving future Fairview program offerings in skilled trades and other fields due consideration, but I am unable to commit to specific numbers of future seats or programs at Fairview.

3. Relocation of Programs

Based on Advanced Education enrolment data from the 2024/25 academic year, an analysis of student origin (identified through postal code data) indicates the composition of the Fairview student population to be 97 per cent from outside the Town of Fairview and surrounding area and three per cent from the Fairview region. Among the students from outside the region, 56 per cent come from the Grande Prairie area (census division 19). These numbers and NWP's readiness to offer Heavy Equipment Technician and Automotive Service Technician programs at Grande Prairie for September 2026, supported by the movement of existing equipment from Fairview to NWP's new skilled trades facility, informed my decision to approve the relocation of these programs.

Because these are high-demand occupations in the labour force, Advanced Education will monitor student and regional demand closely and work with NLC to offer these programs again at Fairview in the future, should all factors make a strong case.

4. Campus Infrastructure and Student Accessibility

Advanced Education and all parties benefited from the WSP engineering assessment, and I was pleased to hear of the generally positive report of the state of Fairview campus infrastructure. This report, in addition to other independent reports, will give the Ministry of Infrastructure good information as they assess the overall costs to operate and maintain the campus as part of the *Real Property Governance Act* process and determine provisions and costs for a master lease arrangement with the future Fairview not-for-profit corporation.

The full scope of costs and considerations as part of the transfer of land and buildings from NWP to Infrastructure is still in the early stages of the *Real Property Governance Act* process. I look forward to understanding the next steps from Infrastructure in greater detail. As committed above, I will ensure my ministry monitors Alberta's training needs and will consider how the Fairview campus might contribute to achieving our government's post-secondary system goals.

5. Future Opportunity: Agriculture and Trades Integration

Advanced Education recognizes the important role of Fairview Veterinary Technology graduates in support of animal care and veterinary medicine in northern Alberta and beyond. We are actively engaged with current public post-secondary Veterinary Technology providers to establish a new program at Fairview. Discussions are ongoing, and I hope to receive proposals in the near future for consideration.

I recognize the FRCS and community's interests in building on the previous agricultural programs that were offered at Fairview, in addition to apprenticeship education programming. I commit to Advanced Education's monitoring of demand for such programs by students, industry partners, and the labour force overall to assess if new agricultural programming would serve Alberta's evolving agricultural sector.

I am aware that members of the FRCS have been engaging in ongoing discussions on transition-related issues with Advanced Education officials. I encourage FRCS members to continue these conversations, as they are important to advancing shared understanding and identifying areas requiring further work and resolution. I am pleased to hear that with your leadership, FRCS is committed to participate meaningfully at Fairview Issues Tables together with other partners. The purpose of these tables is to resolve outstanding operational, programming, and stewardship matters and to develop clear options for my consideration and decision.

I value the continued engagement of the Fairview community and appreciate the committee's commitment to supporting learners in the region. Advanced Education remains focused on providing clarity and on making decisions that are in the best interests of all learners and Alberta's post-secondary system.

Sincerely,



Honourable Myles McDougall, ECA
Minister of Advanced Education

Attachment

cc: Honourable Todd Loewen, ECA
MLA, Central Peace-Notley

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Deputy Minister of Advanced Education

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