



**BLACK GOLD
REGIONAL
DIVISION NO. 18**

NEWS RELEASE

International Student Travel

For Immediate Release

International travel cancelled for remainder of the 2015 – 2016 school year until August 31, 2016

In the wake of recent global events, the Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 Board of Education decided at its regular Board meeting on December 9, 2015 that all international student field trips will be cancelled until August 31, 2016. The Board will review international travel in the new 2016 – 2017 school year, at their first regular Board meeting in September 2016. However, if the world climate continues to become more uncertain and unstable, the Board could review international travel earlier.

Safety and the risks associated with student travel were at the forefront of the Board's conversation. "We have an obligation to ensure we provide a safe and caring environment in Black Gold Regional Schools," stated Sandy Koroll, Trustee, Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 Board of Education. "We cannot risk the health and well-being of our students and staff."

The Board also took into account a recent survey that was conducted with the Black Gold community on this matter. Please see [International Student Travel Survey Data](#) for more information.

Black Gold Regional Division No. 18's Administration is working with all schools to communicate with parents, students, staff and travel agencies regarding the implications of the Board's decision. "We are aware that some students and parents may be disappointed with this decision. However, this was not an easy decision to make. We had to consider several factors but first and foremost, student and staff safety needed to be our number one priority," said Johnette Lemke, Board Chair, Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 Board of Education.

Schools, in consultation with the Division, will be preparing specific communication for those travel trips that have been cancelled. This communication will be circulated and shared with all those impacted as quickly as possible.

– 30 –

About Black Gold Regional Division No. 18

Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 (BGRD) is located directly south of Edmonton, extending from the New Sarepta area in the east, to the Warburg area in the west. It includes the municipalities of Beaumont, Devon, Thorsby, Calmar, the City of Leduc and Leduc County. With approximately 10,500 students enrolled in 30 schools, BGRD teachers and support staff are committed to "inspiring success" in all students. For more information on Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 and our schools, visit: www.blackgold.ca.

For more information, or media inquiries, please contact:

Carmen Pezderic | Communications Coordinator | Black Gold Regional Division No. 18
Phone: 780.955.4570 | Email: carmen.pezderic@blackgold.ca | Website: www.blackgold.ca