



BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION

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October 22, 2020 (electronic letter emailed)

His Worship Mayor Wally Yachimetz
Town of Calmar
4901 – 50 Avenue (PO Box 750)
Calmar, AB T0C 0V0

Dear Mayor Yachimetz and Council:

RE: Request for Support - Proposed School Resource Officer

Black Gold School Division (BGSD) has made a request to Leduc County to reinstate an RCMP officer to the School Resource Officer (SRO) position to serve the schools and communities of Calmar, New Sarepta, Thorsby and Warburg.

The County had in the past provided for an RCMP SRO to work with youth in our schools and communities. This position greatly benefited our students, and in turn, the community as a whole by reducing vandalism, bullying and physical assaults, and making students feel safer so that they can have better learning outcomes and miss less school.

The presence of a SRO also helped in reducing tensions between police and youth, and helped to keep young people out of the criminal justice system whenever possible. By developing rapport and positive relationships, the SRO was able to provide students with education on matters pertaining to the law and public safety, avoiding risky behaviours, and was available for early intervention if the need arose.

Having a member of the RCMP present during a Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) incident at a school is a requirement to which the Town of Calmar and Black Gold School Division are signatories. Each VTRA takes several hours to complete and would not be possible without having an RCMP officer at the table.

In 2018, Carleton University completed a two-year study of Peel Regional Police's \$9-million School Resource Officer program, which found that the program has provided extensive social and economic benefits estimated at 11 times the cost. The study report is [linked](#) for your reference.

Black Gold School Division hereby requests that the Town of Calmar consider contributing to the costs of the School Resource Officer position to serve the schools and communities of Calmar, New Sarepta, Thorsby and Warburg, should Leduc County agree to reinstate the RCMP SRO.

The Division is willing to contribute \$25,000 to Leduc County towards providing an RCMP Officer to work with the students and communities within the aforementioned communities. Additionally, we are willing to provide office space and resources for the SRO as an added in-kind contribution.

Thank you for your consideration in this important student safety matter. We look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Sincerely,



Bill Romanchuk,
Superintendent of Schools/CEO



Devonna Klaassen, Chair
Board of Trustees

BR/clv

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