



**BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION**

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October 22, 2020 (electronic letter emailed)

His Worship Mayor Bob Young  
City of Leduc  
#1 Alexandra Park  
Leduc, AB T9E 4C4

Dear Mayor Young and Council:

**RE: Request to Reinstate School Resource Officer Program**

Black Gold School Division (BGSD) would like to express our appreciation to City Council for providing a School Resource Officer (SRO) to work with youth in our schools. This position greatly benefits 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 an SRO also helps in reducing tensions between police and youth, and helps to keep young people out of the criminal justice system whenever possible. By developing rapport and positive relationships, the SRO is able to provide students with education on matters pertaining to the law and public safety, avoiding risky behaviours, and is available for early intervention should the need arise.

Having a member of the RCMP present during a Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) is a requirement of the protocol to which the City of Leduc and Black Gold School Division are signatories. Each VTRA takes several hours to complete. Also, having an officer available and visible at schools is an important way to bring awareness to the position, and to encourage young people to choose policing as a career.

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 requests that the number of school resource officers be increased in the City of Leduc. Currently, one officer is responsible for 15 schools. This limits the amount of time being spent in any one school, and consequently he cannot be as effective.

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We propose that the City add another **RCMP or a Peace Officer** as an additional resource to the school community. While, through legislation, there are many tasks that a Peace Officer is not able to undertake, they can be very effective in developing relationships and providing educational programs aimed at preventing risky behaviours amongst younger students. This would allow the current RCMP SRO to spend more time working amongst junior and senior high students, and allow the officer to attend VTRA in a timely manner without overly penalizing other schools.

To this end, Black Gold School Division is willing to contribute \$25,000 towards providing an additional RCMP/Peace Officer SRO to work with the students within the City of Leduc. The Division currently provides office space and resources for the SRO, and is willing to do the same for an additional officer.

Thank you for your consideration in this 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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