



BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION

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October 22, 2020 (electronic letter emailed)

Her Worship Mayor Tanni Doblanko
Mayor and Council
Leduc County
101, 1101 - 5 Street
Nisku, AB T9E 2X3

Dear Mayor Doblanko and Council:

RE: Request to Reinstate School Resource Officer Program

Black Gold School Division (BGSD) would like to express our appreciation to Leduc County for previously providing an RCMP School Resource Officer (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 an SRO also, in my opinion, 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. Also, simply 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.

Having a member of the RCMP present during a Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) is a requirement of the protocol to which the Leduc County 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 requests that Leduc County **reinstate an RCMP officer to the school resource officer position** to serve the schools and communities of New Sarepta, Calmar, Thorsby and Warburg.

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

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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