



June 28, 2019

Reeve Steve Upham  
County of St. Paul  
5015 49 Avenue  
St. Paul, AB T0A 3A4

Dear Reeve and Council:

**RE: Board of Trustees' representation in local areas/by-election**

As you may be aware, two of the seven St. Paul Education Regional Division #1 Board of Trustees have recently stepped down from their positions to pursue new career paths. School divisions do not have to adhere to the same strict timelines as municipalities do when it comes to by-elections. We were advised by Alberta Education that holding a by-election in the summer months would not be productive and therefore the Board of Trustees have tabled the decision to the Fall.

This additional time also coincides with the passing of Bill 8, the new Education Act, because the Board anticipates some new regulations may be forthcoming with respect to holding by-elections and electoral boundaries. With the two vacancies, it is also an opportune time for the Board to review if they should keep things the way they are, look at a redistribution of the current wards, or possibly consider reducing the number of wards in the division.

The purpose of this letter is to not only inform you of the possible upcoming changes in the fall, but also to reassure our elected officials in the now two vacant areas that the interests of students, families, and communities will still be fully protected. Board policy and code of conduct clearly stipulate an individual trustee 'must represent the interests of the entire division'. Until such time as a final decision is made with respect to the two vacant positions, you can still expect a trustee will make a concerted effort to attend your school's Parent Council meetings and all events a trustee would normally be present at.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to email me at [heather\\_starosielski@sperd.ca](mailto:heather_starosielski@sperd.ca).

Sincerely,

Heather Starosielski  
Board Chair