



ALBERTA
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

AR 122015

November 7, 2023

The Honourable Bill Blair
Minister of National Defence
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0K2

Dear Minister Blair:

On September 18, 2023, I met with Wing Commander Colonel David Turenne to discuss a potential collaboration between the federal and provincial governments to construct a new building for Art Smith Aviation Academy. This presents an exciting opportunity for a joint venture that could benefit CFB Cold Lake students and their families, now and into the future.

At issue is the condition of the existing building, which is in poor shape and rapidly deteriorating. CFB Cold Lake anticipates growth in the coming years, and the current school building will no longer be adequate in terms of size or condition.

As residents of our province, the education of Kindergarten to Grade 12 students on CFB Cold Lake is the Alberta government's responsibility. In this instance, a leasing arrangement between the Military Families Support Society and the Department of National Defence allows Art Smith Aviation Academy to be housed in a school building on the base, with Alberta's Northern Lights School Division delivering the educational program. According to all parties, this is a satisfactory and beneficial arrangement.

As Minister of Education, I appreciate the opportunity to explore a potential partnership between the Government of Alberta and the Department of Defence for the possible development and co-financing of a multipurpose space. It is essential that all children receive a world-class, high-quality education that enriches their lives and prepares them for success beyond school. The space would serve the needs of the air force for training and meeting rooms, while at the same time providing a new school. A partnered approach could benefit all parties and be of excellent value to the CFB Cold Lake community and Alberta's military families.

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Thank you for your willingness to work with Alberta's government. I look forward to discussing the proposed project.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaides". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Demetrios" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nicolaides".

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education

cc: Lora Pillipow, Deputy Minister of Education
Zoë Cooper, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Services and Governance
Jeff Willan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Financial Services and Capital Planning
Laila Goodridge, MP for Fort McMurray-Cold Lake
Scott Cyr, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul