



August 24, 2020

VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Education
Government of Alberta
228 Legislature Office
10800 – 97 Avenue, NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister LaGrange,

RE: Urgent Meeting Request Regarding School Re-Opening Safety

I am writing to you as the President of CUPE Alberta to request an urgent meeting regarding the safety of students, education workers and families as schools re-open.

CUPE represents over 36,000 members province-wide with more than 8,700 work in the education sector. Our members work as education assistants, librarians, custodial staff, trades, school bus drivers, maintenance and administrative support across Alberta.

Today, our membership has serious concerns about a lack of health and safety measures currently in place as students return to school. We believe the plan you have laid out puts students, education workers, and families at risk. In schools around the province, there is not enough funding for personal protective equipment and not enough custodial staff to adequately and routinely sanitize student spaces. Without a cap on classroom sizes, physical distancing will not be possible for students or educational assistants working with special needs children.

I respectfully request an urgent meeting to walk you through our specific concerns around sanitization, PPE and custodial work. I hope we can work together to ensure that when students return to class next month, they can be confident that their safety is not at risk. I sincerely hope this conversation can take place before classes resume in September.

Sincerely,

Rory Gill
President CUPE Alberta
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clc/cope#491