



# Media Release

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## Premier Returns Funds to Education

The Government of Alberta announced its 2011 budget on February 24, 2011. The government made education a priority but cuts were made to grants that resulted in a \$107 million reduction in funding to education. On Friday October 14, 2011 Premier Redford restored the funding cut from the education budget.

Education Minister Lukaszuk informed school authorities across the province that the \$107 million would be returned to school divisions over a seven month period. Minister Lukaszuk stated that eighty million in additional funding support will be provided to school jurisdictions through increases to grants. Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools was notified that it would receive a funding increase totaling \$461,083 as follows:

Grant	Additional Funding Allocation (Sept. to March, 2012)
Relative Cost of Purchasing Goods & Services	\$0
Stabilization	\$0
Alberta Initiative for School Improvement	\$146,036
Small Class Size – Grades 4 to 6	\$135,499
Enrolment Growth and Decline	\$143,397
Enhanced ESL / Francisation	\$9,245
Intra-jurisdiction Distance	\$26,906
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$461,083</b>

Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools will also receive an additional \$196,992 for classroom and community supports. The Board of Trustees is requesting further information from Alberta Education to determine how the classroom and community supports grant is to be used.

“The 2011 Budget was a very complex and challenging budget,” said Board Chair Deanna Specht. “The Board of Trustees appreciates that the Premier returned the funds originally cut from education funding. Unfortunately since we passed the 2011 Budget our student enrolment has declined by 98.5 students, which means we will lose \$639,925 in funding from Alberta Education. It ends up being a good news – bad news story for our students”

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For further information contact:  
Deanna Specht  
Board Chair  
Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools  
780-387-5450

Dr. Terry Pearson  
Superintendent of Schools  
Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools  
780-352-6018 Email: [pearson\\_t@wrps.ab.ca](mailto:pearson_t@wrps.ab.ca).