

October 2, 2025

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Secretary-Treasurer Rhonda Freeman Dear Peace River School Division Families,

I am writing to you today to provide a necessary update regarding the ongoing negotiations between the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) and the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), and the potential impact on our division.

On September 12, 2025, the ATA served official notice that it will commence a strike on Monday, October 6, 2025 if a negotiated settlement cannot be achieved. In the event that a strike is initiated on Monday, the provision of educational services by our teaching staff will be suspended and our schools will be unable to accommodate students.

We recognize that the possibility of a full withdrawal of services creates significant uncertainty for our students, staff, and families. I want to assure you that the leadership team at the PRSD is actively engaged in developing and refining comprehensive contingency plans to ensure a smooth return to school for our students, should job action occur.

We deeply value the contributions our entire staff make in fostering success for all students, and we remain hopeful that TEBA and the ATA will successfully conclude the bargaining process as soon as possible.

Supports Available from the Alberta Government

In light of the potential strike, the Alberta Government has announced financial assistance and learning resources to support families. We are passing on the key details of this provincial support:

Payment Program for Families: The government intends to introduce a new payment program to help offset potential additional costs (such as childcare or educational supports) families may face if schools are closed due to labour action. Parents and guardians of students aged 12 and under who attend a public, separate, or francophone school and are affected by the strike are eligible to receive \$30 per day, or \$150 per week, per student for the duration of the labour action. The first payment is anticipated to be made on October 31.

Parents can prepare for the application process by setting up an Alberta.ca verified account. More information on the application process will be shared by the government shortly.

At-Home Learning Resources: Alberta Education has developed a free, curriculum-aligned toolkit to support student learning at home during a potential labour



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disruption. The toolkit provides resources following the Grades K-12 curriculum, focusing on core subjects: Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Sciences. These resources are available in English, French, and French immersion and will be updated weekly.

The toolkit can be accessed directly via the <u>provincial government's learning platform</u>.

Looking Ahead

Our focus remains on serving our students and supporting their educational success. We understand this is a stressful time, and we thank you for your patience and support as we navigate this provincial process.

We will continue to monitor the bargaining developments closely and will immediately communicate any firm decisions regarding school operations. Please continue to watch your email and the <u>PRSD website</u> for the most current information.

Sincerely,

Jeff Thompson, PhD

Superintendent of Schools