

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INPUT

HON. D. NALLY

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
ALBERTA

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**Honourable Dale Nally, ECA**  
MLA for Morinville - St. Albert

☞ July 7, 2025.

Mayor and Members of City Council  
City of St. Albert  
St. Albert, Alberta

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Alberta's government is responding to rapid population growth and rising student enrolment with the School Construction Accelerator Program, announced in 2024, which includes a historic \$8.6 billion investment to build and modernize schools across the province. This initiative is about ensuring students have access to high-quality learning environments—now and into the future.

As Premier Danielle Smith has said, *"As we build, we're asking school boards and municipalities to work with us so we can get shovels in the ground as quickly as possible."*

St. Albert is experiencing this growth firsthand, with more families choosing to make this vibrant city their home. To help meet the demand, Alberta Education has approved critical projects for St. Albert Public Schools, including the modernization and expansion of Bellerose Composite High School and a new K–9 school in the Chérot neighbourhood.

However, to fully meet the educational needs of our growing city, particularly in the northeast, a new high school east of St. Albert Trail is essential. St. Albert Public Schools has clearly identified the need for a 20-acre site in Erin Ridge North to support this future school, and it now stands as their top capital plan priority.



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I strongly support the redistricting application submitted by Invistec Consulting Inc., on behalf of Landrex Hunter Ridge Inc., which is a crucial step in enabling the timely development of this much-needed high school site.

This is a unique opportunity for municipal and provincial alignment in support of our shared constituents. I encourage City Council to continue moving this initiative forward and help ensure the readiness of a shovel-ready school site in Erin Ridge North.

Sincerely,



*Hon. Dale Nally, ECA*

Minister of Service Alberta & Red Tape Reduction

MLA for Morinville-St. Albert Constituency

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**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INPUT**

**M. BRENNEIS**

July 8, 2025

City of St. Albert  
5 St. Anne Street  
St. Albert, AB T8N 3Z9

Via E-mail [hearings@stalbert.ca](mailto:hearings@stalbert.ca)

Attention: Legislative Services

RE: BYLAW 19/2025

Specific to This Proposed Land Use Bylaw Schedule A Amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Erin Ridge North proposed redistrict plan.

St. Albert Public Schools is supportive of a variety of affordable family housing, and therefore, it is excited for the continued development of the Erin Ridge North neighborhood. It is very supportive of the creation of a 21 acre school site in Erin Ridge North.

General Comments

St. Albert Public Schools applauds the City of St. Albert's undertaking to add a large school site in this expanding vibrant neighborhood.

The proposed school site will have good access, which is critical for long term success. It supports the development of a safe and efficient school bus bay and a smooth parent drop-off and pick-up area.

The division's priorities remain consistent. A large ECS-Grade 9 school was awarded to St. Albert Public Schools in the spring of 2025. A high school in Erin Ridge North continues to be our number one capital plan priority.

Properly sized school sites are essential to meet the needs of the community. The school jurisdiction was informed that the Erin Ridge North development would house a growing number of students. St. Albert Public Schools has indicated for years in its capital plan that a high school in the north east is both logical and necessary. It geographically disperses the high school population across St. Albert, thereby creating less strain on the City of St. Albert's traffic infrastructure.

School sites should be large enough to have the ability to accommodate shared school jurisdiction and municipal partnerships. In addition, large school sites are appropriate as St. Albert Public School builds physically larger schools and the schools serving higher grades require multiple large sports fields.

St. Albert Public Schools appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback and confirm that we would utilize a large school site in Erin Ridge North.

In closing, St. Albert Public Schools looks forward to continuing to work with City Council and City of St. Albert Administration to address the ongoing challenges in meeting student space needs, for today's students, your residents and future constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael R Brenneis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn above the name.

Michael R. Brenneis, BComm, CPA, CA, CSBO  
Associate Superintendent of Finance, Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Krimsen Sumners, Superintendent, St. Albert Public Schools  
Board of Trustees, St. Albert Public Schools

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INPUT

K. MCKNIGHT

July 9, 2025

Dear Mayor Heron and Members of Council,

I am writing as a resident and engaged member of the St. Albert community to relay my support for bylaw 19/2025 which would redistrict land in Erin Ridge North to facilitate a school site. I also wish to express serious concern about the way school infrastructure—particularly in the northeast—is being framed in recent council discussions and public commentary.

### **Challenging the Double Standard on Infrastructure Investment**

On February 6, Councillor Natalie Joly posted on Facebook questioning whether taxpayers should fund high-cost servicing for the northeast and asked what level of tax increase residents would find acceptable. This framing omitted the fact that the City authorized \$62.7 million in off-site levies, approximately **\$15 million of which came from taxpayer funding**, to service the Lakeview Business District—an investment that supports future development near the Cherot neighbourhood and proceeded without public pushback or concerns about fairness.

This contrast highlights a perceived inconsistency in how infrastructure investments are framed and funded based on geography and political context.

In the case of the northeast, off-site levies were not applied or collected in adequate amounts, resulting in a funding gap that now requires debt financing. This situation puts pressure on both residents and city administration, as additional services (such as schools, parks and roads) grow but the infrastructure investment and financial planning have lagged.

The northeast communities are victims of timing - the community grew too soon before the necessary infrastructure, funding mechanisms, and strategic planning were ready - creating a gap between community needs and the City's ability to meet them. These gaps may be the product of decisions made by past administrations or Councils, but it is the responsibility of **this** Council to acknowledge those shortcomings and take meaningful steps to correct them. Please don't dismiss our frustration—explain directly how Council plans to resolve the school-access issues in our part of the city.

School infrastructure is not a neighbourhood benefit—it is a regional, community and societal investment. School attendance boundaries span the city. When a new high school opens, it eases pressure across all existing high schools. It supports family retention within the community, attracts new residents, and ensures young people have access to quality



education without being bused great distances across the city. A single school in the northeast supports students from across the entire city.

This is no different than how we view fire halls, libraries, recreation centres, or police stations. These are core pieces of infrastructure. We do not limit them to those living within a few blocks, and we should not treat school sites any differently.

### **Selective Fiscal Caution Undermines Public Trust in Infrastructure Decisions**

I also want to raise a broader concern about budget outcry being selectively applied. When Council supports expensive servicing projects like Lakeview, or accelerates development planning in other areas, cost rarely seems to generate the same resistance. But when the need is a school site for a growing population, suddenly the question becomes, “Who should pay?”

This selective application of fiscal caution contributes to a long-standing frustration and a sense of mistrust among residents of the northeast communities. It suggests that infrastructure decisions may be influenced more by neighbourhood or political dynamics than by equitable, long-term public value. While this is undeniably a complex issue, Council has a responsibility to close the infrastructure gap through a transparent, accountable servicing strategy—one that explores fair and creative financing options without placing an undue burden, or even the perception of one, on a single area. Residents aren’t asking for special treatment; they are asking for meaningful action and clear solutions for their lived experience—not more delays or explanations of why progress isn’t possible.

Many families choose to lay roots in northeast St. Albert based on a **reasonable assumption** that residential development will be accompanied by the necessary public services, including schools. While Council may disagree with residents’ expectations around timelines, it is neither fair nor constructive to place blame on the community for wanting equitable access to the same infrastructure enjoyed by others across the city, especially given the severe overcrowding of the schools in that area. In contrast, Cherot is only in the early stages of development, yet it is already positioned to benefit from nearby access to both a K–9 school and a potential high school site. Council now has an opportunity to ensure that existing families in the northeast—who have long lacked adequate access to educational services—are not overlooked, even as westward expansion in Cherot continues in alignment with the MDP to support future residents.

### **Respecting the School Board’s Urgency**

We have elected and entrusted local school board trustees to make informed decisions about educational needs. When the St. Albert Public Schools Board of Trustees says a new

high school is urgently needed in the northeast—and that the province cannot fund it without a serviced site—it is time to listen. They are supported by professionals with firsthand understanding of enrolment trends, facility pressures, and provincial requirements. Their expertise should be respected and integrated into Council’s planning, not questioned or delayed.

I was encouraged by Councillor Sheena Hughes’ comments in a previous discussion:

“We owe it to the residents and the people that are desperately looking for the high school to make that an option.”

That sentiment is exactly what’s needed now.

### **Restoring Trust Through Transparent Planning**

It is the responsibility of Council to make decisions that reflect long-term, city-wide priorities—not just the pressures of a single fiscal cycle or the interests of specific neighbourhoods. To build public confidence, both Council and administration must demonstrate that all available tools are being considered to address long-standing infrastructure challenges in the northeast. As one resident pointed out, we must address persistent issues on both sides of the City, including the northeast. While the Mayor recently noted that the northwest is “where all the new development is going now and into the longer future,” this raises an important question: **What becomes of the many families who have already built their lives in Jensen Lakes, Erin Ridge/Erin Ridge North, and all communities north of Villeneuve Road?** These residents deserve the same level of foresight and commitment as those moving into new neighbourhoods. Council cannot overlook their needs by focusing solely on development in the west. The opportunities and growth in the northeast was established long ago, and these families deserve fair and equitable support moving forward.

This includes a willingness to critically assess and, where appropriate, push back on administrative recommendations that may limit progress.

The current opportunity to secure a high school site represents a narrow but important moment to respond meaningfully to the needs of a growing population, while also preserving choice for current and future residents. Property taxes have already increased due to higher assessments and the provincial education tax. It is only fair that residents see a return on that investment in the form of infrastructure in the areas where it is most urgently needed—not simply where it is most convenient or least complex to deliver.

I am asking Council to move away from divisive framings that suggest some areas of the city are more deserving of infrastructure than others. Please support the redistricting of the

land to facilitate a school site where it is desperately needed. At this stage, all that the residents and school division are asking for is the **opportunity** for the school site to be approved—we understand there are still many factors to consider. But this simple action would send a clear message to the community: that St. Albert has strong leaders willing to make tough, principled decisions, and that **the families living in the north of St. Albert have not been forgotten.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kari McKnight