

## Charity Croker

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**Subject:** FW: Urgent Request for Support Regarding Child Care Funding in Cold Lake  
**Attachments:** Urgent Request for Support Regarding Child Care Funding in Cold Lake.pdf

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**From:** Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul <[Bonnyville.ColdLake.StPaul@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Bonnyville.ColdLake.StPaul@assembly.ab.ca)>

**Sent:** May 26, 2025 5:33 PM

**To:** Barry Kalinski <[bkalinski@md.bonnyville.ab.ca](mailto:bkalinski@md.bonnyville.ab.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Berlinguette <[bberlinguette@md.bonnyville.ab.ca](mailto:bberlinguette@md.bonnyville.ab.ca)>; Crystal Schienbein <[havenchildcarecl@gmail.com](mailto:havenchildcarecl@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Urgent Request for Support Regarding Child Care Funding in Cold Lake

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Reeve Kalinski,

Please find attached a letter from MLA Scott Cyr.

Thank you,



**Philip Schienbein**

Constituency Assistant for

**MLA Scott Cyr - Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul**

Tel: 780 573 3556 (cell)

Tel: 780-826-5658 (office)

Fax: 780-826-2165

Mail: Box 5160, Bonnyville, AB T9N 2G4

Office: 211 - 4910 - 50 Ave, Cold Lake, AB T9M 0G1



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF ALBERTA

May 26, 2025

Barry Kalinski, Reeve  
Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87  
4905-50 Avenue,  
Bonnyville, AB  
T9N 2J7

Dear Reeve Kalinski,

**Re: Urgent Request for Support Regarding Private Child Care Funding in Cold Lake**

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for the outstanding leadership you continue to demonstrate in support of our region. Your dedication to the well-being of our residents, and your commitment to strengthening the social and economic fabric of Cold Lake and the surrounding area, is deeply appreciated.

I was recently informed by a constituent about a significant change to Alberta's childcare funding policy; as of May 15, 2025, the Government of Alberta has implemented a new measure that restricts affordability grant funding for new private (for profit) childcare spaces, due to a federally imposed cap under the Canada-Alberta Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (CACWELCC).

While existing licensed private programs with signed grant agreements will continue to receive funding, new private centres will only qualify if they open in one of five "high waitlist" communities: Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Fort McMurray, and Canmore/Banff. *Cold Lake was not included on that list*—despite the urgent and growing need for childcare in our region.

This decision comes at a time when hundreds of military families, oil and gas workers, and other parents in Cold Lake are already struggling—right now—to find childcare placement for their children. Waitlists are long, spots are scarce, and the few providers operating in the area are stretched to capacity. This is not a future problem—it is an existing crisis that is about to get worse.

The shortage of accessible childcare is already having concrete consequences. *There are well known cases of skilled professionals who have declined offers to relocate to Cold Lake specifically because they were unable to find childcare.* Employers across sectors report that the lack of spaces is directly impacting their ability to recruit and retain talent. We are standing on the threshold of a true crisis, and unless Cold Lake is added to the list of high-need communities, the opportunity to avert it may be lost.

I am requesting you consider writing a letter to the Minister of Education and Child Care, advocating for Cold Lake to be granted an exception to the current policy and added to the list of high-priority communities eligible for new funded private spaces. I would request you send your letter directly to the Minister of Education and Child Care and kindly CC my office, so we may include your voice as part of our broader advocacy on behalf of local families and childcare providers.

Should you be willing to support this effort, please direct your signed letter *via email* to:

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides  
Minister of Education and Child Care  
Government of Alberta  
423 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6  
[education.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:education.minister@gov.ab.ca)

Once your letters have been submitted, our office will prepare a formal request for a meeting with the Minister of Education and Child Care. This meeting will include myself as the MLA, along with representatives from the municipalities supporting Cold Lake's inclusion on the list of high-priority communities. Our goal is to present a united and collaborative front in urging the Minister to recognize the urgent need for expanded childcare access in our region.

I would like to note that this policy decision was made by the Honourable Matt Jones, Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade, in one of his final actions involving childcare before the creation of the new Ministry of Education and Child Care. We are grateful that the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides has now taken on this important responsibility last week, and we are confident in his willingness to listen to communities like ours as he assumes this critical portfolio.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have questions or need assistance in drafting your response. I believe a coordinated appeal from key community leaders—including municipal officials, federal representatives, and CFB Cold Lake—could be instrumental in reversing this oversight.

Thank you for your leadership and for your ongoing commitment to Cold Lake families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott Cyr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Cyr" clearly distinguishable.

Scott Cyr, MLA  
Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul

**Cc:** Crystal Schienbein, Haven Childcare