



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Preliminary Budget for 2018-19 School Year**

The Pine Creek School Division Board of Trustees approved its preliminary \$15.4 million budget for the 2018/19 fiscal year at its Regular Board meeting of February 22, 2018. This year's provincial announcement came later than anticipated and tasked the Division with accommodating another 2% cut in provincial funding. The announcement also forced a reduction on the overall budgeted expenses in order to stay within the province's newly mandated 2% freeze on education property tax.

Pine Creek's Formula Guarantee has now been reduced by \$276,246 less than the \$7.5 million in guaranteed funding that has been issued each fiscal year since 2011/12. In order to meet the mandated 2% limit on property taxes, the Board needed to limit projected increases on total expenses to nil.

The Division's people resources continue to be a priority to Pine Creek's Trustees and Administration. As a major employer in its communities, the Division is not considering employment cuts in 2018-19, to support the continuing increase in projected student enrolment. The property tax freeze presented challenges, since status quo salaries and benefits were scheduled to increase overall by 1.9%. The Board of Trustees and Divisional Administration went to work at reducing costs within the remaining areas of the total budget in order to comply with the limitation.

The preliminary budget translates into an overall 4.4% increase on the 2018 property tax levy. The 2018 mill rate will see a decrease of 1.1 mil as the Division's overall assessment increased by 13%. Deficit budgeting is not part of the Pine Creek School Division's budget planning with the Province continuing to imply a 4% limit on the allowable surplus level; the Division needs the entire allowable surplus level in case of emerging and unforeseeable situations that may arise throughout the school year.

The Public Budget Consultation is scheduled Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at MacGregor Collegiate in MacGregor, MB. The Division encourages all constituents to come and hear about the budget deliberation successes, and the challenges that Pine Creek will face for the 2018/19 school year.

The Board welcomes budget presentations in response to the preliminary budget at its March 8, 2018 Public Board meeting. To arrange a presentation, contact Secretary-Treasurer, Robyn Winters via email by noon on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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For more information contact:

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