Business Case

Guidelines

The business case will clarify:

- **Opportunities Statement and Scope:** Identify the challenges and/or opportunities the business case aims to address, explain why the issue is important and why it needs to be addressed.

- **Community Priorities & Long-Term Goals:** What are the Council's priorities? What educational outcomes, governance structures and cultural priorities does the community envision for its own education authority?

- **Current System Performance:** How does it work today? How does the existing provincial school authority serve Fort Chipewyan students, and where does it fall short? This assessment can include both quantitative data (e.g., Alberta Education Assurance Measures, graduation rates, high school completion rates, diploma exam results, funding allocations etc.) and other forms of community knowledge, such as community experiences, feedback from families, and insights from Elders and educators.

- **Identified Gaps:** How is current system not meeting priorities? What specific areas/needs are not being met under the current system? What are the potential risks if these gaps remain unaddressed?

- **Analysis:** What aspects of the current governance model limit the community's ability to address concerns? What evidence could support the position that the proposed new provincial education authority would lead to better outcomes?

- **Governance Considerations:** How will the proposed education authority improve student learning outcomes in a way that can be measured? How will a new governance structure incorporate all members of the community including those not part of the society and non-indigenous students? How will parents, guardians, teachers, students be involved?

Components and Requirements

Executive Summary
Purpose and background on the current education authority.

Opportunities Statement and Scope
Clearly identify the challenges and/or opportunities the business case aims to address, who it affects and how it impacts the community. Describe the extent of the issue and its significance. Clearly identify community needs.

Current State
Overview of the existing education system, including governance, curriculum, student supports, and funding. Identify specific areas where the current system does not meet community needs.

Desired Future State
Vision for a new education authority, including goals, governance structure, and key priorities.

©2025 Government of Alberta | June 19, 2025 | Alberta Education

Classification: Protected A

Benefits and Outcomes
How the solution will improve results supported by data and projections. Explanation of gaps, their impact on student outcomes, and whether governance change is the appropriate solution.

Risk
What are the risks and how do they compare to the benefits?

Community Involvement
Explanation of how the Council will ensure the involvement and/or support of all the Fort Chipewyan communities, including Mikisew Cree First Nation and the non-indigenous population, to ensure the proposed education authority meets the needs of all students in Fort Chipewyan attending the Athabasca Delta Community School.

Evidence & Rationale
Supporting research demonstrating why a new authority would address these gaps more effectively.

- Is there evidence, research or case studies demonstrating that a new provincial school authority would improve student outcomes or address the gaps identified?
- What accountability measures and performance metrics would be in place to ensure that a new governance structure leads to measurable improvements?
- What evaluation can be incorporated to assess the effectiveness of a new governance model? Are there culturally relevant indicators of success that should be considered alongside required educational metrics?

Outcome
A clear conclusion for why the solution should be pursued, showing it is both viable and beneficial, with evidence of how it has worked elsewhere or in similar contexts.

©2025 Government of Alberta | June 19, 2025 | Alberta Education