

At its April 8th meeting, the Chinook's Edge Board of Trustees [approved an increase](#) to [specific school fees, effective September 2025](#). [Due to inflationary costs](#), transportation fees [will increase](#) by \$50 per student. Also fees for Career and Technology Studies courses are going up. Read more, [here](#).

The Board was delighted to congratulate Penhold Elementary School teacher, [Clancy Pennock](#), on receiving the [Chinook's Edge nomination](#) for the [Edwin Parr Award](#). The award is given annually to six exceptional first year teachers in Alberta. Watch a video of Pennock, [here](#).

Trustees will continue to advocate provincially for social and health supports for students. The Board will write a letter to Alberta Children and Family Services Minister, Searle Turton, asking for improved collaboration and information sharing with Family Resource Networks. The Board will also sign a letter from pediatricians and the Alberta Medical Association, requesting reinstatement of full PUF (program unit funded) funding for preschool aged children who need supports.

The Board is pleased to see interest in the newly developed, and announced, [flexible learning program](#) that will be [available to families](#) starting September 2025. The [program is open](#) to students who are not currently registered with Chinook's Edge, and will offer a choice of two learning pathways.

A number of the Board's trustees were [happy to join with other partners](#) of the [Central Alberta Collegiate Institute](#) (CACI) in [welcoming Alberta Education Minister Demetios Nicolaides](#) to Olds College of Agriculture & Technology, for the opening of a [new CACI space](#) in the Olds College Metals Building. The April 2nd event, celebrated the completion of a renovation, including the expansion of the number of welding booths available to CACI learners, and availability of industry quality equipment for training.

The Board sends its congratulations to four recipients of the [King Charles III Coronation Medal](#).

- [Kathy Kemmere](#), Chinook's Edge trustee. Member of Parliament Earl Dreeshen nominated Kemmere for her service to the community, particularly in palliative care.
- [Jackie Taylor](#), CACI Executive Director. Alberta Education Minister Nicolaides nominated Taylor for her [contribution to career education](#) in the province.
- [Kirk Wassmer](#), retired Didsbury High School band teacher,. Member of Parliament Earl Dreeshen nominated Wassmer for his contributions in education.
- [Jackie Dewane](#), Educational Assistant at Sundre High School. The Air Cadet League of Canada nominated Dewane for her many years of service to youth in the program.

Congratulations from the Board go to Claire Friesen, a Cremona School student, and Oceana Jones, an Ecole Olds High School student, [for receiving gold standing](#) at the [Central Alberta regional science fair](#) as well as an invitation to the national science. Trustees also congratulate the many students who also did well at the regional and local science fairs.

The Board was pleased to learn that Ecole Deer Meadow's choir will be [heading to the provincial music festival](#), after a successful performance at the Olds music festival.

The Board is supportive of the division's work to establish [Indigenous cultural residencies](#) in [schools this year](#), and is [appreciating positive outcomes](#). Trustees were also glad that school councils in Sylvan Lake worked together to organize and participate in a [Blanket Exercise](#), with the purpose of increasing their understanding of Indigenous history in Canada.

Also the Board enjoys seeing the positive impact of a [cultural exchange program](#) that welcomes [Japanese junior high students to Didsbury](#) each year. The relationship between Miki Town, Japan and Didsbury, Alberta has been in place for 20 years.