Canadian Rockies School Division facing $725,000 shortfall in 2019/2020 budget.

Canadian Rockies School Division is facing an estimated $725,000 shortfall in its 2019/2020 budget, based on the information contained in last week’s provincial government announcement.

The actual dollars being removed at this time by the province from CRPS is $1.4 million, based on three grants previously received that are now reassigned: the Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF) ($306,000); the Class Size Grant ($845,000); and the School Fees Reduction Grant ($203,000). This funding is reassigned in order for the government to reallocate dollars to address enrolment growth across the province.

However, for this fiscal year (2019/20) the province is allocating one time funding of $356 per student for rural boards to assist with the reduction of the three grants listed above. For Canadian Rockies School Division this amounts to approximately $632,000. This results in an estimated net reduction of funding of $725,000 to the division for the 2019-2020 school year.

The division was most impacted by the removal of the Class Size Grant that amounted to just under $845,000. As noted, the $632,000 transition grant does not account for the loss of class size grant funding.

The division will take some time to carefully and thoughtfully review current allocations of funding and reserves to adjust the budget to meet the new reality, with the goal of minimal impact in classrooms. The division is hopeful after realigning the budget with the new funding structure that we do not see further impacts from the adjustments in funding.