

ALBERTA
INNOVATION AND ADVANCED EDUCATION

Office of the Minister
M.A. Edmonton - Riverview

AR48408

October 7, 2015

Ms. Margaret Mrazek
Interim Chair, Board of Governors
Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca AB T9S 3A3

Dear Ms. Mrazek:

Thank you for meeting with me on September 21, 2015. I found our discussion on Innovation and Advanced Education's response to Athabasca University's Report of the Presidential Task Force on Sustainability to be productive. In followup to that meeting, I would like to reiterate what is required as next steps from Athabasca University.

The Board of Governors should:

- review its institutional mandate, identifying a sustainable role for the institution within its community, Campus Alberta, and the province,
- explore partnership models with other Campus Alberta institutions, including federated models, complete with an analysis of costs involved and the advantages of this model for students, Athabasca University, partner institutions, and the Campus Alberta system,
- provide further details on work being done to increase efficiency and effectiveness, modifications to the business model, and potential cost savings and how these changes will contribute to the financial sustainability of the institution,
- provide details on plans to work more collaboratively with faculty and staff on sustainability initiatives and to ensure that student and community concerns are considered, and
- provide an update on the university's search for a new president.

Please provide me with a report of these activities by December 1, 2015, and please also provide a copy to Peter Leclaire, Assistant Deputy Minister of Advanced Learning and Community Partnerships. I recognize the importance of Athabasca University to the community, and I look forward to receiving your report on this important work.

Sincerely,



Lori Sigurdson
Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education
Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour