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MEDIA RELEASE

March 24, 2017

Living Sky School Division faces a \$6 million shortfall for 2017-18

On March 22nd, the Provincial Government presented the 2017-18 budget. The Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education announcement confirmed:

- Elected School Boards will remain;
- There will be no major school division boundary changes;
- The province will maintain its focus on the Education Sector Strategic Plan;
- There will be legislative changes to clarify roles within the sector and create efficiencies; and
- There will be a focus on the improved engagement with First Nations and Métis residents.

The government announced a 1.2% (\$22 million) reduction in school operating funding for the 28 school divisions in Saskatchewan. Living Sky School Division received its individual budget late Wednesday afternoon and was met with a 4.6% or \$3,018,000 reduction for 2017-18. Coupled with the division's current \$3 million deficit, it leaves the division a \$6 million shortfall for next school year.

What does all of this mean for Living Sky School Division? It means we will continue to be Living Sky School Division with all of our values and beliefs intact. We will be faced with difficult budget decisions in the coming months, but will ensure we communicate and consult with our stakeholders during the budget development process. Student well-being and achievement will be kept at the forefront of all decision-making.

The Board of Education welcomes feedback from the public regarding the budget, either through Regular Board Meetings or through written submission to Living Sky School Division No. 202, Att: Dave Hutchinson, Director of Education 509 Pioneer Avenue, North Battleford, SK S9A 4A5 or by email to: shannon.lessard@lksydsd.ca.

Upcoming Regular Board Meeting Dates at Living Sky School Division Central Office:

Wednesday, April 12 th at 4:00 pm	Wednesday, April 26 th at 4:00 pm
Wednesday, May 10 th at 4:00 pm	Wednesday, May 24 th at 4:00 pm

Annual General Meeting:

Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00 pm at Unity Composite High School

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Living Sky School Division is situated in Northwest Central Saskatchewan. It encompasses a wide geographic area including the Battlefords, many communities, villages, First Nation communities and Hutterite colonies. Currently, twenty-nine schools are located in eighteen communities. Our schools include PreK-12, elementary, high schools and alternate schools with a student population of approximately 5,700 students.

For more information, please contact:

Shannon Lessard, Sr. Executive Assistant/Communications

Living Sky School Division No. 202

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