



## How RYCOR's Online Payments and Fee Management Solutions Ensured Financial Transparency and Oversight for Chinook's Edge School Division



With RYCOR's help, we've gone from 8% collected online to around 72%, which is a huge efficiency gain. We've saved overall, for man hours, thousands and thousands of dollars.



**Alex Schultz, CPA, CGA**

Assistant Treasurer,  
Chinook's Edge School Division No.73



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Chinook's Edge School Division

Students: 11,000

Number of Schools: 43

### CHALLENGES

- A lot of cash was being handled in schools, increasing their exposure and risk to theft
- Bookkeepers were manually entering school fees in the Student Information System
- Administrative staff did not have any oversight to what fees were being charged and paid

### FEATURES

- RYCOR Fee Management
- RYCOR Online Payments
- RYCOR Advanced Forms

### RESULTS

- **Convenience:** Over \$6.9 million of payments have been made online by parents and guardians.
- **Financial Benefit:** Collection rates have averaged over 92% in the last seven school years
- **Standardization:** Managed over \$9.6 million school payments with one reliable platform.

Alberta's Chinook's Edge School Division staff recently took the time to share the success that RYCOR has brought to their district. As one of RYCOR's first clients, the district has freed up staff time, increased financial transparency, and provided convenience to parents.

## CHALLENGES

**All school fees were manually entered, and schools were only handling cash payments**

Chinook's Edge School Division is one of the largest school divisions in the province, serving over 11,000 students in their 43 schools. Chinook's Edge Schools' vision is to be universally recognized as a collaborative learning community, with personalized learning for all students to achieve success. However, to achieve that, the leadership team needed to find a solution to allow each of their schools to be more efficient to better serve their students.

Alex Schultz, Assistant Treasurer for the district recalls the amount of manual labor required before using RYCOR.

"We would have to manually set up school fees in the Student Information System for students. Then other fees would manually be added or removed as needed. This was not always an easy task as the program was not designed for this type of accounting. When you have 11,000 students, that's a lot of work."

In addition to issuing out school fees, many staff members had to be involved in the collection process, including teachers. Countless hours were spent on totaling up the money collected and dealing with paperwork. They needed to find a system that helped them automate the process.

Evan Staal, an accountant for the district. explained how safety was another concern.

"A lot of cash was being handled in schools, which exposed us to a great risk of theft."

Finding a solution that provided online payments to reduce cash in the district was a high priority.

# SOLUTION

## An automated and efficient fee management system

Chinook's Edge Schools can now get things done a lot faster. With RYCOR's Fee Management system, everything is automated, and what used to take weeks now only requires a few hours.

"We are so much more efficient than we used to be. Anyone can add a fee en masse to grades, entire schools, divisions, whatever is needed regarding fees, very quickly and efficiently. It is impressive, very impressive." – Alex Schultz, Assistant Treasurer

From an accounting and reporting perspective, there is also a huge change in transparency. RYCOR streamlines the fee collection process, and allows the district to have oversight as to the type and amount of fees they are pulling in. The software user rights also allow for the ability to track and set activity and permissions for each school user, allowing for accuracy and transparency in accounting practices.

"We get a lot of transparency and we now know what is going on. Schools do too because in RYCOR's system, the information is no longer compartmentalized." – Alex Schultz, Assistant Treasurer

RYCOR provides more than just Online Payments and Fee Management. There is also huge value from their Advanced Forms feature. Chinook's Edge School Division was one of the first to use these forms and they have seen tremendous success with the schools that use it. The highly customizable grad ticketing feature was something that no other system was able to provide them.

*"We now use forms for hot lunches, clothing, field trips, extracurriculars, grad banquets, donations, fundraisers. The list of things is growing exponentially."*  
– Alex Schultz, Assistant Treasurer

### Chinook's Edge School Division Advanced Forms on RYCOR



Hot Lunches



Grad Banquets



Extracurriculars



Clothing

# THE RESULTS

## **RYCOR allows for increased financial transparency, safety, and efficiency**

In the seven school years of being with RYCOR, collection rates have averaged over 92.6% for the Chinook's Edge School Division. They have been able to achieve some of the highest parent participation rates among RYCOR's Canadian Client community.

In addition to that, over 90% of parents in the district are now making payments online. This achieves the goal of Chinook's Edge to decrease the amount of cash handled by their schools and allows them increased safety and assurance. In fact, there have been a total of \$6.9 million in payments made through RYCOR's software.

"RYCOR's Online Payment software is user-friendly which makes people want to use them. With this, we are able to reduce the risk that was associated with the amount of cash going into and handled in our schools." – Evan Staal, Accountant

Using RYCOR, Chinook's Edge has put over \$9.6 million fees in the cloud-based system and are constantly being recognized for their successes of collecting fees and payments in the most efficient and convenient manner.

Aside from the measurable results, there are also untold thousands of dollars saved per year on paper and man hours.

"We used to email students and mail out paper forms. The district staff are also free now to do other things that the schools need them to. Cost-benefit wise, RYCOR is definitely worth it." – Alex Schultz, Assistant Treasurer

Although RYCOR has grown tremendously since the initial implementation with Chinook's Edge, they continue to develop to fit whatever the needs of the district are as they also grow.

"RYCOR knows what we have to say is important. Keep growing RYCOR and keep up the great work!" – Alex Schultz, Assistant Treasurer

**92.6%**

Average  
collection rate

**\$6.9M**

Cash and check  
reduced in schools

**+90%**

Parents making  
online payments

Is your staff's time getting sucked up by  
extraneous administrative tasks?

Streamline your school fee management processes with RYCOR.

[Request a demo](#)