

Chairperson

Kim Salkeld
Rocky View
(403) 936-5162(Home)
(403) 936-5163 (Fax)
e-mail:ksalkeld@rockyview.ab.ca

Zone 5

Vice-Chairperson

John Neill
Prairie Land
(403) 772-3847(Res)
(403) 772-2151(Fax)
e-mail: jneill@plrd.ab.ca

Agenda
ASBA Zone 5
Meeting
MAY 18, 2001
Radisson Hotel
Castle Mountain Room
2120 – 16 Avenue N.E.
Calgary

Secretary-Treasurer:

Darrell Couture/Arlene Dow
Rocky View/Prairie Land
(403) 291-6304/800-601-3898 (Bus)
(403) 250-3281/(403) 854-2803(Fax)
e-mail: dcouture@rockyview.ab.ca/arlene.dow@plrd.ab.ca

9:00 **COFFEE**

9:30 **CALL TO ORDER**
Introductions
Approval of the Agenda
Approval of the April 27, 2001 Minutes
Business Arising from the Minutes

CORRESPONDENCE

9:45 **BOARD SHARING**
Questions on Board Sharing

10:30 **REPORTS**
Alberta Learning – Terry Pearson
ASBA Zone Director – Lorne Kosack
ASBA Executive or Staff
C.L.L. – Karen Harries
ASEBP – Karen Harries
Teacher Preparation – Graham Sewell
Regional Consortium – Kathy Smith
Edwin Parr Committee
Labor Relations – John Murray (in-camera if necessary)
Treasurer – Darrell Couture

Calgary Catholic
Calgary Public
Canadian Rockies
Christ the Redeemer
Foothills
Golden Hills
Greater Southern
Francophone-Catholic
Greater Southern
Francophone - Public
Prairie Land
Rocky View

Acceptance of reports as information

11:15 Presentation of Proposed Issues for A.S.B.A. Fall General Meeting
Selection of Zone Issues for FGM (see attachments)

12:00 **LUNCH** (provided)

12:30 **GUEST SPEAKER** (None)
A.S.B.A. – Review of A.S.B.A. Policy Manual– Dr. Leroy Sloan

1:30 **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Establishment of Next Year's Meeting Dates
2. C.S.B.A. Breakfast
3. A.S.B.A. Advocacy Issues

3:00 **ADJOURNMENT**

**Alberta School Board's Association – Zone 5
Minutes –April 27, 2001**

Call to order Kim Salkeld called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

In Attendance	Kim Salkeld	Rocky View
	Darrell Couture	Rocky View
	Lorne Kosack	Rocky View
	Terry Patey	Rocky View
	Graham Sewell	Foothills
	Donna Engel	ASBA
	Heather Rogers	ASBA
	Michelle Mulder	ASBA
	Linda Wellman	Calgary Catholic
	Judy MacKay	Calgary Catholic
	Cathy Smith	Golden Hills
	Shirley Reinhardt	Golden Hills
	Larry Maerz	Golden Hills
	Terry Pearson	Director – Zone 5 - Alberta Learning
	Chris Pollard	Francophone Public
	Evelyne Drouin	Francophone Catholic
	John Neill	Prairie Land
	Sharon Hester	Calgary Board of Education
	Kimberley Epp	Foothills School Division
	John Shannon	Christ the Redeemer
	Mary Stengler	Christ the Redeemer

Adoption of Agenda Lorne Kosack moved the agenda be approved. Carried.

Adoption of Minutes Terry Patey moved the minutes of March 23, 2001 be approved. Carried.

Business Arising None

Correspondence None

Board Sharing **Terry Patey – Rocky View**

- Thanked Golden Hills for holding the *Reaching & Teaching* Conference
- Board Planning Session held on Monday and Tuesday
- Joint School Board/School Council Chairs meeting held on April 26, 2001. Discussion topics included: Budget, A.I.S.I. and C.O.S.C. (proposal rejected).
- Division Planning Priorities and Budget Presentation to Board on April 12, 2001.
- Zone Drama Festivals being held at Bert Church High School

Graham Sewell - Foothills

- Visioning
- Budget approved but needs to be amended given new grant announcement
- Red Deer Lake Student Conference

Linda Wellman – Calgary Separate

- Budget preparation
- New high school construction proceeding well

Shirley Reinhardt – Golden Hills

- Thanked Boards for supporting their *Reaching & Teaching* Conference
- Will be hosting the 2nd annual conference next year
- New Strathmore High School is under construction – slightly behind schedule
- New Strathmore Store Front School grand opening has been planned. (Minister of Learning, Dr. Oberg, will be in attendance.) Cosmetology being offered part-time at facility.
- Budget preparation
- Joint meeting with School Council Chairs

Sharon Hester – Calgary Public

- Budget preparation and review given Minister's announcement
- Finalized capital plan
- Dismissed Chief Superintendent in order to provide a change in leadership
- Identifying profile required for new Chief Superintendent
- Voted to close five elementary schools
- Commenced negotiations with teachers

John Shannon, Christ the Redeemer

- Agreement with Canadian Rockies to share a school in Canmore
- Hired new Superintendent, Peter Doyle

Evelyne Drouin - Francophone Catholic

- Search for superintendent ongoing with assistance of Dr. Sloan
- Ducharme Committee recommendations on governance forwarded to Alberta Government and are now being reviewed by Cabinet.

Chris Pollard - Francophone Public

- Budget preparation
- Capital plan request submitted but no response
- Ducharme Committee recommendation on governance is that no public francophone board be continued, and this is being reviewed by Cabinet.

John Neill – Prairie Land

- 2001-2004 Capital Plan being developed
- System evaluation being undertaken
- Undertaking a review of reserve requirements – have \$6 Million in reserves - what should reserve levels be?

New Business

Edwin Parr Awards – Shirley Reinhardt

Discussed planning for banquet for the 80 or so people attending.

Minister of Learning, Dr. Oberg, attending.

Calgary Separate, Linda Wellman, agreed to look after preparation of the program.

Sharon Hester, Calgary Public, agreed to organize the banquet dinner with the hotel staff.

Graham Sewell, Foothills, agreed to act as contact person and send invitations to Edwin Parr nominees.

Mary Stengler, Christ the Redeemer, agreed to collect and account for ticket revenue.

Shirley Reinhardt, Foothills, agreed to look after the flower centerpieces and gift bells.

Donna Engel, ASBA, will bring engraved apple for the winning Edwin Parr nominee.

Kim Salkeld, Rocky View, agreed to act as chair of the banquet.

Terry Patey, Rocky View, agreed to do the banquet blessing.

Reports

Terry Pearson - Alberta Learning

Highlighted the report and commented on the following:

School Buildings Board to be eliminated to streamline the process

Alberta Student Loan Relief program has been announced

Francophone governance issue being discussed at the Cabinet level.

Board Sharing Showcasing

Prairie Land – Art Aitken, Superintendent and Crystal Smith spoke on Prairie Land's Mentorship Program. Superintendent's desire is to change the paradigm of how learning and teaching was occurring in Prairie Land. Professional Development of teachers was seen as necessary through a mentorship model. Mentorship Program includes a pre-reading package, in-service of teachers by spending a week in Crystal's classroom on how to change teaching methods to engage kids and subsequent discussion sessions.

Reports continued

Heather Rogers – ASBA Budget Presentation

As per attachment

Lorne Kosack – Zone 5 Director Report

As per attachment

Michelle Mulder & Donna Engel – ASBA Report

Reported on:

- a) questions raised at last meeting
- b) Spring General Meeting

Linda Wellman responded to A.S.B.A. question on what should A.S.B.A. advocate for:

- flexibility of funding
- late capital funding announcements
- what role is utilization going to play relative to capital approval
- teacher shortages
- no increase in A.I.S.I. funding

Sharon Hester added:

- ability of Boards to deal with schools closed, i.e., Minister has said Calgary Board of Education must lease to charter schools.

Cathy Smith - Regional Consortium

Trying on-line meeting next time

Graham Sewell – Edwin Parr Committee

Edwin Parr Committee has interviewed nominees

Reviewed some minor problems with Edwin Parr process with A.S.B.A.

Linda Wellman suggested that Canadian Taxpayers Association Representative should be part of selection committee.

In-Camera

Linda Wellman moved that the Zone 5 A.S.B.A. meeting move into an in-camera session.

Carried.

Labour Relations issues were discussed

Out of In-Camera

Linda Wellman moved that the Zone 5 A.S.B.A. meeting move out of in-camera
Carried.

Moved by John Neill to accept reports for information

Carried.

New Business

- **Sharon Hester - C.S.B.A.'s Summer Conference**

Zone 5 organizing pancake breakfast for 7:00 a.m. July 21. Need one person from each Board of the Zone to sit on the organizing committee. Boards are to e mail: shester@home.com or phone 242-0477 within one week. Need as well, three to five volunteers per Board to help at the breakfast and volunteers to solicit sponsorships.

- **FGM Policy Position – At next meeting**

- Linda Wellman outlined Calgary Separate's issues as she was not going to be at the May Zone meeting as follows:

- remove requirement to fund health services at previous levels
- integrated service model funding

John Neill on behalf of Prairie Land presented Michelle Mulder, ASBA with a student artwork for their new office.

Linda Wellman moved that the A.S.B.A. Zone 5 recognize Ron Taylor for his assistance and information sharing with the Zone.

Carried.

Next Zone meeting is May 18 (Friday)

Adjournment

Lorne Kosack moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

The Director's Report

◆ ◆ Zone 5 Services Branch ◆ ◆

Zone Services

Edmonton Office

Fax: 780-422-9682

Phone: 780-427-2952

3rd Floor, West Devonian Building
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton AB T5K 0L2

Calgary Office

Fax: 403-297-3842

Phone: 403-297-6353

1101 J J Bowlen Building
620 7 Avenue SW
Calgary AB T2P 0Y8

Aboriginal Services

Fax: 780-422-9682

Phone: 780-427-2952

3rd Floor, West Devonian Building
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton AB T5K 0L2

French Language Services

Fax: 780-422-1947

Phone: 780-427-2940

9th Floor, East Devonian Building
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton AB T5K 0L2



Bouquets



Department Update

Change in Phone Numbers

With the reorganization of the Basic Learning Division, there is no longer a Regional Office Branch and so that phone number, (780) 427-2952, will soon be discontinued. Branches can be contacted at their branch number:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Zone 1 Services | (780) 427-5394 | 3 West Devonian Building |
| • Zone 2/3 Services | (780) 427-9296 | 3 West Devonian Building |
| • Zone 4 Services | (780) 427-5381 | 3 West Devonian Building |
| • Zone 5 Services | (780) 427-5381 (temporary) | 3 West Devonian Building |
| • Zone 6 Services | (780) 427-5377 | 3 West Devonian Building |
| • Aboriginal Services | (780) 415-9300 | 2 West Devonian Building |
| • Governance and Program Delivery | (780) 427-7235 | 6 West Devonian Building |

Please find attached a current listing of all branches in Basic Learning.

Learning Resources Centre Reminder

In response to inquiries from the field, the LRC 5% discount has been extended beyond April 30, 2001 for basic learning resources for the revised Grades 7-8 Science program. For English language editions, the 5% discount is extended to June 30, 2001. For French language editions, the extension is to January 31, 2002.

Questions regarding new resources for Grades 7-8 Science can be directed to Bernie Galbraith at (780) 422-3218 or bernie.galbraith@gov.ab.ca.

Mathematics

Mathematics 14-24 have been revised and there will be a pilot of the new program and resources in the fall of 2001. Mathematics 14 will be implemented September 2002 and Mathematics 24 in September 2003. The revisions will raise the rigor of the two programs and will more seamlessly align them with other high school mathematics courses.

Teachers who have been implementing applied mathematics on an optional basis since September 1998 report that the standards are appropriate for the abilities, skills and learning styles of the students enrolled and that the program addresses the needs of a range of students, including those often referred to as the “midstream”. Teachers emphasize that students must engage in problem solving and be willing to work independently and collaboratively to complete long-term assignments and projects on time in order to be successful in this program.

Students have the option to complete Mathematics Preparation 10 to gain entry into applied or pure mathematics if they do not wish to enroll in Mathematics 14-24. They also have the option of completing Mathematics 16-26 if the new curriculum for Mathematics 14-24 is too rigorous.

Work with senior high schools and post-secondary institutions continues and information is updated regularly on the Alberta Learning website at [www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/by Subject/math](http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/by%20Subject/math).

For more information please contact Katie Pallos-Haden at (780) 422-2330 or katie.pallos-haden@gov.ab.ca.

Student Loan Information

Learner Assistance Branch in Adult Learning has developed a new Student Loan Relief Program. Unlike its predecessor, the Loan Remission Program, the new program provides automatic payment of benefit. The goal is to reduce financial concerns for junior and senior high school students considering post-secondary studies. Given the significant change and the fact that the Loan Remission Program was underutilized, Superintendents are being asked to ensure that students and parents are fully aware of the benefits of this new program. (See attachment).

For more information please contact Karen Swyers, Adult Learning at (780) 422-3848 Karen.swyers@gov.ab.ca.

Review Committee on Outcomes Consultation

This committee has planned province-wide consultations from May through June 2001. The purpose of the consultation is to review the outcomes developed by the stakeholder committee and to provide feedback. Workbooks have been developed for this purpose and are being distributed to each school. For those unable to attend a consultation session, feedback can be sent to the committee by using the workbook.

Dates and locations for consultation meetings have been set and venues are being arranged by ASBA:

- Vermilion May 17
- Lethbridge May 22
- Medicine Hat May 23
- Edmonton May 28
- Calgary May 30
- Red Deer May 31
- Fort McMurray June 6
- Grande Prairie June 7
- Edmonton June 11
- Edson June 12
- Calgary June 13

For more information, please contact: Dennis Theobald, System Improvement and Reporting, (780) 422-1853. Dennis.Theobald@gov.ab.ca

Refundable Deposits Survey

System Improvement and Report Division will be surveying superintendents in the middle of May regarding Section 32(4) of the *School Act*, which speaks to “refundable deposits where a student has failed to complete a high school course and is repeating the course”. Alberta Learning would like to know:

- What impact the use of Section 32(4) has had in those school jurisdictions that have implemented the provision; and
- If any school jurisdictions that have not used this provision plan to do so in the future.

This is an important activity in that it will assist the Minister in determining if the 1997 addition to the *School Act* has produced the desired effect, and if it should continue to be included in legislation.

For more information, please contact: Frances Arnieri Ballas, System Improvement Group, (780) 427-3972.

Learner Assessment Branch

The cooperation of teachers, administrators, and other school system staff members in the administration of the Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams is very much appreciated. Superintendents and principals are reminded of the importance of adhering to the “Significant Dates” listed in the *General Information Bulletin, Achievement Testing Program Grades 3, 6, and 9, 2000–2001 School Year* and the *General Information Bulletin, Diploma Examinations Program, 2000–2001 School Year*.

For more information, please contact Tom Dunn, Assistant Director, Examination Administration, at Tom.Dunn@gov.ab.ca, phone (780) 427-0010, toll-free at 310-0000.

School authorities are requested to report the achievement of home education students who do not write the achievement tests, through the Extranet application introduced for this purpose last year. As well, as many school authorities as possible are asked to participate in the pilot of reporting procedures for students absent from achievement tests.

A reminder to school authorities that they are not required to include diploma examination results for students in Mathematics 30, Pure Mathematics 30, or Applied Mathematics 30 in their November 2001 Annual Education Results Reports.

For more information, please contact Ron Cammaert, Assistant Director, Analytic Services, at Ron.Cammaert@gov.ab.ca or by phone at (780) 427-0010, toll-free at 310-0000.

Special Education Review Update

Work has started in a number of major projects arising from the Special Education Review.

The *Guide to Education for Students with Special Needs*, will be revised this fall following consultation with school authorities, parents, education partners and stakeholder groups. A first round of input sessions was held in April with Zone special education directors, and two parent groups. Input from other education partners and stakeholders will be scheduled for spring and early fall. The revised *Guide* will be pivotal in setting direction for other projects planned to address the recommendations of the Review.

Alberta Learning has the lead, through the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), in developing a national accountability framework for special education, following work done in conjunction with Western Canada Protocol (WCP). The accountability framework will focus on student and program outcomes, inputs and processes, and will lead to improvements in practice. In conjunction with the accountability framework, a team is exploring alternate measures, including student portfolios, to track the achievement and growth of students with special needs who are currently exempted from provincial achievement tests. The Special Education Review Implementation Team is working towards streamlining the collection of special education information from school authorities.

Although the actual funding profile will be established in collaboration with each school jurisdiction, historical school jurisdiction profiles are being assembled, and will be sent to school jurisdictions over the next few weeks. Jurisdictions will receive a tabulation of enrolment in each of the special education categories for the past five years, including early childhood services and mild/moderate special needs. This is in preparation for the new funding model for severe disabilities that will be implemented September 2001. Jurisdiction profile funding will be based on the number of approved students with severe disabilities, patterns of growth and marked changes to jurisdiction enrolment over time.

A newsletter *Building the Future Together* has been developed to report on the progress of the implementation of the Special Education Review. It will provide more detail on the status of the recommendations, and include a *Frequently Asked Questions* section. The first edition was posted on the Alberta Learning website at the end of April and the second edition will be ready in September. To view the *Frequently Asked Questions* section, go to www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k-12/specialedreview/default.asp.

For more information, contact Anne-Louise Charette at (780) 422-6548 or anne-louise.charette@gov.ab.ca.

Integrated Occupational Program (IOP)

The IOP is being revised and updated to reflect practices in the field, employment trends, job markets, and changes to mainstream curriculum. Input from stakeholders will enhance and strengthen the program. The IOP Curriculum Development Team is building connections between the IOP Occupational Component and Career and Technology Studies (CTS) so the student transfer between the two will be better facilitated, for those students whose academic, social and other competencies indicate the appropriateness of a transfer.

Draft learner outcomes for core IOP courses may be available to jurisdictions for review in September 2001 and regional consultations will take place in the fall of 2001 to receive input on the draft learner outcomes.

Contacts are Mike Alpern, at (780) 422-3272, Jocelyn Lamoureux at (780) 427-5406 and Linda Snow at (780) 415-4508.

Grade 9 IOP Provincial Assessment

The field test of the Grade 9 IOP is scheduled for May 28 and June 6, 2001 and will involve over 400 students. It consists of three components:

- Two multiple choice sections – humanities and math/science
- One constructed response section
- A personal performance profile

The field test assessment will provide important input that will assist in:

- Revising the assessment package
- Making decisions about whether or not students will write one or the other, or both provincial exams
- Identifying students who will write the regular grade 9 PAT and students who will write the IOP provincial exam.

All Grade 9 students will write the regular Grade 9 Provincial Achievement Test unless exempted by their superintendent on an individual basis, as per the current policy. In the schools piloting the IOP Assessment, Grade 9 IOP students may write either the Provincial Achievement Test or the IOP pilot Provincial Assessment or both. For more information, please contact Becky Pretli at (780) 422-2413 or becky.pretli@gov.ab.ca.

Local Research Studies Released

Learning Minister Dr. Lyle Oberg has released two Alberta-based research studies related to student achievement. The studies, the *Small Class Size Project Final Report* and the *Early Literacy Initiative Review*, have been provided to school jurisdictions across the province to assist them in furthering the success of local students. These reports will be useful to jurisdictions as they address class size and Early Literacy Initiative funding issues in the coming months.

a) Small Class Size Project Final Report

The *Small Class Size Project Final Report* captures the results of a \$500,000 Alberta Learning pilot project with Edmonton Public Schools to investigate the effect of reducing class size and enhancing teaching practices in Grade 1 classes. This pilot project ran in 10 high-needs schools in Edmonton, and included a \$75,000 research component led by the University of Alberta's Faculty of Education.

The six-month Small Class Size Pilot Project ran from January to June 2000. Participating schools reduced the size of the classes which ranged from 19 to 29 students before the study, to eight to 15 students during the study. The research team also conducted a review of literature from across North America related to class size.

The Pilot Project found:

- Of the 161 students who participated, 88 students increased their performance, while 59 students achieved the same levels and the performance of 14 students was lower.
- Researchers emphasized the key role that instructional practice plays in helping students achieve academic success.
- Participating teachers undertook extensive professional development and cooperative planning that was focused on improving the quality of instruction.

Participating teachers, principals and parents greatly valued reducing class size.

The document may be found at www.learning.gov.ab.ca/whatsnew/ClassSize

b) The Early Literacy Initiative Review

The Early Literacy Initiative (ELI) was launched in spring 1998 providing \$57 million over three school years. This initiative was designed to support the development of early literacy programs by school authorities and the review analyzed strategies used as well as results achieved. A review of the research on literacy was also conducted.

The ELI Review found:

- More than 90 per cent of the students served showed improvement, with the majority exiting the program having met the acceptable standard for their grade level.
- A comparison of schools in the Calgary Board of Education showed that students in schools receiving ELI funding made greater gains than did students in schools that did not receive ELI funding.
- The literature review documents the strength of the relationship between a student's level of success in early literacy to his/her success in later studies; and the importance of identifying and assisting students with their literacy skills very early in their school careers.

The document may be found at www.learning.gov.ab.ca/whatsnew/eli

Crime Stoppers Video

In helping to ensure our schools and communities are safe and caring, the Ministries of Learning and Solicitor General have jointly funded and approved two television ads to encourage youth to use a Youth Crime Stoppers phone line to report crime. The purpose of the ads is to underline the government's commitment to keep Alberta communities safe and to let youth know that they can help in this endeavour without placing themselves at risk. It is hoped that the ads will complement the work already in place in schools to create and maintain safe and caring environments. The ads are not intended to replace or disrupt discipline policies and guidelines already in place by jurisdictions/schools.

Questions from the Field

Q: If information related to a school (bullying, harassment) is given through the Student Crime Stoppers confidential line, how would a school become aware of it?

A: A tip would involve a follow-up investigation and verification process. The Crime Stoppers Coordinator for the Edmonton Police Service would receive the information about the tip and contact the school resource officer or principal as part of the process.

Contact *Basic Learning*

Who we are, what we do, and how you can contact us for more information.

(Contact us toll-free through the government RITE line at 310-0000)

Assistant Deputy Minister's Office

The purpose of the Basic Learning Division is to work with our partners in laying the foundation for lifelong learning for all Alberta's children from birth to late adolescence. We are organized into three sections: Field Services, Provincial Standards and Processes, and Project Management and Interagency Coordination.

Contact: Susan Lynch, Assistant Deputy Minister
Email: Sue.Lynch@gov.ab.ca

Sandra Shepitka-Boyle, Special Assistant
7th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 102 Street
Edmonton T5J 4L5
Phone: 780-427-7484 **Fax:** 780-422-1400
Email: Sandra.ShepitkaBoyle@gov.ab.ca

Field Services

Field Services Branches provide "one-stop" provincial standards and program implementation services to meet the unique needs of school authorities, key education stakeholders, and the public within a particular area. Branches also identify emergent issues, provide clients with support in problem resolution, and facilitate two-way communication between school authorities and Alberta Learning. Service areas include five geographic regions, as well as French Language and Aboriginal communities throughout the province.

The Zone 1 Services Branch serves school authorities, key education stakeholders, and the public in Northern Alberta, from High Prairie in the south to the Northwest Territories border in the north, and the British Columbia border in the west to the Saskatchewan border in the east. Grande Prairie and Peace River are in this zone.

Authorities include:

- Fort Vermilion School Division
- Grande Prairie Roman Catholic Separate School Division
- Grande Prairie School District
- High Prairie School Division
- Holy Family Catholic Regional Division
- Northland School Division
- Northwest Francophone Education Region
- Peace River School Division
- Peace Wapiti Regional Division
- Private Schools
- Private ECS Operations

Talk to us about:

- emergent issues in Zone 1
- Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports (AERRs)
- department service delivery
- problem resolution
- school operations

Contact: Merla Bolender, Director
3rd Floor, West Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2
Phone: 780-427-5394 **Fax:** 780-422-9682
Email: Merla.Bolender@gov.ab.ca

The Zone 2/3 Services Branch serves school authorities, key education stakeholders, and the public in North Central Alberta from the British Columbia border to the Saskatchewan border. Edmonton is in this zone.

Authorities include:

- Aspen View Regional Division
- Black Gold Regional Division
- Buffalo Trail Regional Division
- East Central Alberta Catholic Separate Schools Regional Division
- East Central Francophone Education Region
- Edmonton Catholic Regional Division
- Edmonton Public School District
- Elk Island Catholic Separate Regional Division
- Elk Island Public Schools Regional Division
- Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional Division
- Fort McMurray Roman Catholic Separate School District
- Fort McMurray School District
- Grande Yellowhead Regional Division
- Greater North Central Francophone Education Region
- Greater St. Albert Catholic Regional Division
- Lakeland Roman Catholic Separate School District
- Living Waters Catholic Regional Division
- Northern Gateway Regional Division
- Northern Lights School Division
- Parkland School Division
- Pembina Hills Regional Division
- St. Albert Protestant Separate School District
- St. Paul Education Regional Division
- St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division
- Sturgeon School Division
- Wetaskiwin Regional Division
- Aurora Charter School
- Boyle Street Education Centre
- Moberly Hall Charter School
- New Horizons Charter School
- Suzuki Charter School
- Private Schools
- Private ECS Operations

Talk to us about:

- emergent issues in Zone 2/3
- Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports (AERRs)
- department service delivery
- problem resolution
- school operations

Contact: Carol McLean, Director
3rd Floor, West Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-427-9296

Fax: 780-422-9682

Email: Carol.McLean@gov.ab.ca

The Zone 4 Services Branch serves school authorities, key education stakeholders, and the public in Central Alberta, from the British Columbia border to Coronation, with Red Deer located in the centre of the zone.

Talk to us about:

- emergent issues in Zone 4
- Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports (AERRs)
- department service delivery
- problem resolution
- school operations

Contact: Loraine Steele, Director
3rd Floor, West Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-427-5381

Fax: 780-422-9682

Email: Loraine.Steele@gov.ab.ca

Authorities include:

- Battle River Regional Division
- Chinook's Edge School Division
- Clearview School Division
- Red Deer Catholic Regional Division
- Red Deer School District
- Wild Rose School Division
- Wolf Creek School Division
- Private Schools
- Private ECS Operations

The Zone 5 Services Branch serves school authorities, key education stakeholders, and the public in South Central Alberta, from the British Columbia border to the Saskatchewan border with Calgary located in the centre.

Authorities include:

- Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District
- Calgary School District
- Canadian Rockies Regional Division
- Christ the Redeemer Catholic Separate Regional Division
- Foothills School Division
- Golden Hills Regional Division
- Greater Southern Francophone Education Region
- Prairie Land Regional Division
- Rocky View School Division
- ABC Public Charter School
- Almadina Charter School
- Foundations for the Future Charter Academy
- Science Alberta Charter School
- Private Schools
- Private ECS Operations

Talk to us about:

- emergent issues in Zone 5
- Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports (AERRs)
- department service delivery
- problem resolution
- school operations

Contact: Terry Pearson, Director
3rd Floor, West Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue Edmonton T5K 0I2

Phone: 780-427-5381 (Temporary)

Fax: 780-422-9682

Email: Terry.Pearson@gov.ab.ca

Basic Learning Centre - Calgary

1101 J.J. Bowlen Building
620-7 Avenue SW Calgary T2P 0Y8

Phone: 403-297-6353

Fax: 403-297-3842

The Zone 6 Services Branch serves school authorities, key education stakeholders, and the public in Southern Alberta, from the British Columbia border to the Saskatchewan border and south to the United States border. Lethbridge and Medicine Hat are located in this zone.

Talk to us about:

- emergent issues in Zone 6
- Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports (AERRs)
- department service delivery
- problem resolution
- school operations

Contact: Michael Walter, Director
3rd Floor, West Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-427-5377

Fax: 780-422-9682

Email: Michael.Walter@gov.ab.ca

Basic Learning Centre - Calgary

1101 J.J. Bowlen Building
620-7 Avenue SW Calgary T2P 0Y8

Phone: 403-297-6353

Fax: 403-297-3842

Authorities include:

- Grasslands Regional Division
- Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division
- Horizon School Division
- Lethbridge School District
- Livingstone Range School Division
- Medicine Hat Catholic Separate Regional Division
- Medicine Hat School District
- Palliser Regional Division
- Prairie Rose Regional Division
- Westwind School Division
- Centre for Academic and Personal Excellence Institute Charter School
- Private Schools
- Private ECS Operations

The French Language Services Branch provides “one-stop” provincial standards and program implementation services to school authorities and other education partners on all matters related to the delivery of French language education. This includes Francophone and French Immersion education.

Talk to us about:

- French Language kindergarten to grade 12 programs
- French language resources
- French language instruction
- Francophone governance
- Francophone school authorities
- federal/provincial agreements for French language education programs

Contact: Gérard Bissonnette, Director

9th Floor, East Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-427-2940

Fax: 780-422-1947

Email: Gerard.Bissonnette@gov.ab.ca

Authorities Include

- Northwest Francophone Education Region
- Greater North Central Francophone Education Region
- East Central Francophone Education Region
- South Central Francophone Education Region
- all other school authorities with French language programs

The Aboriginal Services Branch provides “one-stop” provincial standards and program implementation services to school authorities and other education partners on all matters related to Aboriginal education and culture.

Talk to us about:

- needs and interests of First Nations, Metis, Inuit and other Aboriginal clients and stakeholders
- Native Education Policy
- Native Education Projects
- school and band authorities
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Aboriginal awareness

Contact: Evelyn Good Striker, Director

3rd Floor, West Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-415-9300 **Fax:** 780-415-9306

Email: Evelyn.GoodStriker@gov.ab.ca

Field Services Executive Director’s Office provides leadership and support for all Basic Learning branches, focussing specifically on those in Field Services. **Frank Horvath**, Executive Director
10th Floor, East Devonian, 11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton T5K 0L2 **Phone:** 780-427-6272 **Fax:** 780-422-9735
Email: Frank.Horvath@gov.ab.ca

Provincial Standards and Processes

Provincial Standards and Processes Branches develop, communicate, assess, and support the elements, expectations, and programs related to Alberta’s kindergarten to grade 12 education system.

The Governance and Program Delivery Branch works to ensure provincial policies and programs are aligned and support learners’ access to education, as defined by the *School Act* and related legislation. The Branch develops and maintains standards and processes for reviews, inquiries, and investigations in matters related to school authority governance.

Talk to us about:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| • policies and regulations | • establishment of separate school districts |
| • the <i>School Act</i> | • education service agreements |
| • the <i>Guide to Education</i> | • disposition of property |
| • Ministerial Reviews | • jurisdiction boundaries |
| • Attendance Board | • board elections |
| • school councils | • private schools |

Contact: Valerie Keates, Director

Governance and Program Delivery
6th Floor, West Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-427-7235 **Fax:** 780-42

Email: Valerie.Keates@gov.ab.ca

The Curriculum Branch leads the development of curriculum frameworks and learning outcomes in programs and courses of study for Alberta's kindergarten to grade 12 learners. Branch work is based on standards related to the format in which programs of study are prepared for use by school authority staff.

Talk to us about:

- curriculum development in career education, essential competencies, Integrated Occupational Programs, special education, French language and culture, Aboriginal languages and cultures, and international languages.
- *Programs of Study*
- Learning Outcomes

Contact: Raja Panwar, Director
6th Floor, East Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-427-2984

Fax: 780-422-3745

Email: Raja.Panwar@gov.ab.ca

The Special Programs Branch develops and manages ECS to grade 12 programs for learners with mild, moderate, or severe disabilities and those who are gifted and talented. The branch also co-ordinates alternative delivery methods.

Talk to us about:

- home education programs
- blended programs
- virtual school programs
- outreach programs
- Charter schools
- Enhanced Opportunity Fund
- special education private schools
- guidance and counseling programs
- funding claims for special programs
- Program Enhancement Project

Contact: Rick Hayes, Director
10th Floor East Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-422-6326

Fax: 780-422-2039

Email: Rick.Hayes@gov.ab.ca

The Learning and Teaching Resources Branch selects and develops instructional resources for learners and support materials for teachers and ensures these resources meet provincial standards and processes.

Talk to us about:

- resource reviews for all languages including English, French and Aboriginal programs
- authorization of resources, and preparation and distribution of annotated bibliographies
- the Western Canadian Protocol Resource Reviews for Math and Social Studies
- Guides to Implementation
- Teacher Support Manuals

Contact: Gina Vivone-Vernon, Director
5th Floor, West Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-422-0628

Fax: 780-422-0576

Email: Gina.Vivone@gov.ab.ca

The Professional Development and Certification Branch develops provincial standards and processes in matters related to professional staff who are key to the teaching process. The Branch is also responsible for teacher certification.

Talk to us about:

- professional development consortia
- teacher certification
- teacher registry maintenance
- the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation
- the Council on Alberta Teaching Standards (COATS)
- the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program

Contact: Fred Burghardt, Director
12th Floor, Harley Court
10045 111 Street, Edmonton
Mailing Address: 11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-427-2045
Fax: 780-422-4199
Email: Fred.Burghardt@gov.ab.ca

Provincial Standards and Processes Executive Director's Office provides leadership and support for all Basic Learning branches, focussing specifically on those in Provincial Standards and Processes.

Donna Smith, Executive Director, 5th Floor, East Devonian, 11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton T5K 0L2
Phone: 780-427-7303 **Fax:** 780-422-0576 **Email:** dsmith@gov.ab.ca

Project Management and Interagency Coordination

Project Management and Interagency Coordination (PMIC) is responsible for the project-focused activities of the Basic Learning Division. PMIC manages major projects and assists branches and individuals with project work. Interagency Coordination includes managing connections between two or more organizations – projects and initiatives that involve other levels of government, departments, divisions and provincial and regional agencies.

Talk to us about:

- Alberta Initiative for School Improvement
- the Alberta Children and Youth Initiative
- Special Education Review
- Enhancing Second Language Learning
- Adult Skills Alberta
- 2001 Championships in Athletics Education Committee

The School Improvement Branch (SIB) works collaboratively with partners and stakeholders in the design, development, implementation and sustainable management of the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI). The SIB also works with partners in the design and delivery of provincial "supports" to AISI (eg. thematic in-services, sharing symposia, research abstracts clearinghouse) to enhance the chance of successful projects leading to meaningful and sustainable improvement of student learning and performance.

Contact: John Myroon, Director
5th Floor, East Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-427-3160 **Fax:** 780-422-5129
Email: John.Myroon@gov.ab.ca

Enhancing Second Language Learning – To ensure that Alberta is ready to meet the global challenges of the 21st Century, more of our young people should be proficient in international languages. To meet this goal, the department is beginning a review of the basic and adult learning systems as they relate to second language learning. As a result of this initiative, students will have greater opportunities to attain levels of proficiency and cultural awareness.

Contact: Christina Bexte, Project Leader
701 Harley Court
10045 111 Street
Mailing Address: 11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-415-8757 **Fax:** 780-422-4199
Email: Christina.Bexte@gov.ab.ca

The Alberta Children and Youth Initiative - The Government of Alberta is improving the integration of services to children through the Alberta Children and Youth Initiative (ACYI), increasing the emphasis on early intervention, children's mental health, addressing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and protecting children at risk. This children's business plan sets the strategic direction and policy framework to guide joint planning and encourages more collaboration among Ministries, together with community service providers, to achieve four goals - to ensure Alberta's children are well-cared for, safe, successful at learning, and healthy.

Contact: Sandi Roberts, Project Leader
10th Floor, West Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-422-6076 **Fax:** 780-422-9735
Email: Sandi.Roberts@gov.ab.ca

The **Special Education Review**, announced on March 15, 2000 is examining the delivery of special education programs and services, and looking for ways to streamline administrative processes and reduce unnecessary paper work for school boards. The review will identify key issues in special education and provide recommendations for action.

Contact: Anne-Louise Charette, Project Leader
8th Floor East Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-427-4735 **Fax:** 780-422-9735
Email: Anne-Louise.Charette@gov.ab.ca

Adult Skills Alberta carries out the department's commitment to establish a new policy and operational framework for adult basic education and skills training in Alberta. The ASA Team is a focal point for providing the strategic leadership necessary to implement that framework and for monitoring and addressing the ongoing issues confronting the adult basic education system.

Contact: John Fisher, Project Director
5th Floor, West Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-427-5628 **Fax:** 780-422-0576
Email: John.Fisher@gov.ab.ca

The 2001 Championships in Athletics Education Committee is developing initiatives and projects to "involve" Alberta students and their teachers with the 2001 Championship in Athletics. The resources and activities under development are being structured so that students will be aware of, gain an understanding of, and participate in the 2001 championships in Athletics.

Contact: Val Olekshy, Project Manager
10th Floor, West Devonian
11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 780-422-0627 **Fax:** 780-422-9735
Email: Val.Olekshy@gov.ab.ca

Project Management and Interagency Coordination Executive Director's Office provides leadership and support for all Basic Learning branches, focussing specifically on Project Management and Interagency Coordination. **Rick Morrow**, Executive Director, 10th Floor, West Devonian, 11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton T5K 0L2
Phone: 780-422-9423 **Fax:** 780-422-9735 **Email:** Rick.Morrow@gov.ab.ca

Other areas of Alberta Learning

The **Learning Technologies Branch** designs and developments print and electronic learning resources to support the delivery of distance learning and regular classroom programs through use of modern technologies. This Branch is located in the Information Services and Strategic Division.

Talk to us about:

- distance learning
- ACCESS-LTA
- On-line school providers

Contact: Garry Popowich, Director
Box 4000
Barrhead T7N 1P4

Phone: (780) 674-5350 ext. 130

Fax: (780) 674-6561

Email: Garry.Popowich@gov.ab.ca

The **Learner Assessment Branch** develops provincial standards and processes regarding the assessment of learners. This branch is part of System Improvement and Reporting.

Talk to us about:

- provincial achievement tests
- diploma examinations
- assessments for classroom use
- marking provincial assessments
- results reporting
- national and international studies of achievement

Contact: Jim Brackenbury, Director
4th Floor, Harley Court
10045 111 Street, Edmonton
Mailing Address: 11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton T5K 0L2

Phone: 427-0010 **Fax:** 422-4200

Email: Jim.Brackenbury@gov.ab.ca

The **Learning Resources Centre** enhances student lifelong learning and learner achievement through delivering a range of resource services. The Centre is part of Corporate Services.

Talk to us about:

- educational learning/teaching information in any learning resource format
- alternate format materials and equipment
- services for visually impaired students

Contact: Rick Baker, Director
12360 - 142 Street
Edmonton T5L 4X9

Phone: (780) 427-2767 **Fax:** (780) 422-0130

Email: Rick.Baker@gov.ab.ca

The **Budget, School Finance and Reporting** facilitates the management and reporting of financial information to ensure a well-funded and sustainable learning system. This Branch is part of Corporate Services.

Talk to us about:

- funding for school authorities
- financial reporting
- ministry funding

Contact: Jeff Olson, Executive Director
8th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 102 Street
Edmonton T5J 4L5

Phone: (780) 427-2055 **Fax:** (780) 422-6996

Email: Jeff.Olson@gov.ab.ca

The **School Reporting Branch** provides financial expertise to school authorities. This Branch is part of Corporate Services.

Talk to us about:

- audited financial statements and budget reports
- transportation issues

Contact: Dale Fulford, Director
8th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 102 Street
Edmonton T5J 4L5

Phone: (780) 427-2055 **Fax:** (780) 422-6996

Email: Dale.Fulford@gov.ab.ca

For more information about our organization, please look us up on our website at:
<http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/department/orgchart/descriptors.asp#BasicLearning>

If you need more copies, please contact
April Rose at Field Services
Phone: 780-427-6272
or Email: April.Rose@gov.ab.ca

Special Programs Branch - What's New

April 2001

The Special Programs Branch works with partners, clients, and stakeholders to develop standards and processes to support alternative ways of addressing the unique needs of individual learners.

The areas of responsibility include the following.

- Special Education Programs for Early Childhood Services (ECS) to Grade 12 learners with mild, moderate, severe or gifted needs
- Charter Schools
- Designated Special Education Private Schools
- Home Education
- Blended Programs
- Online Schools
- Outreach Schools/Programs
- Safe and Caring Schools (SACS) Initiative
- Open and Caring Schools
- Student Health Initiative (SHI)
- Aboriginal Special Needs
- Guidance and Counselling
- Early Literacy Initiative (ELI)
- Severe Disabilities Funding
- Program Unit Funding (PUF)
- Institutional Programs
- Regional Assessment Services
- Program Enhancement Project (PEP)
- Enhanced Opportunity Funding (EOF)
- Implementation of the Special Education Review Recommendations



Table of Contents

Highlights	2
Safe and Caring	2
Guidance and Counselling	2
Home Education.....	2
Online Programs	2
Outreach	2
Early Literacy Initiative (ELI)	3
Building a Future Together.....	4
Special Education Symposium	4
Resource Update.....	5
New Staff.....	6
Special Programs Branch Staff List	7

Highlights

Safe and Caring Schools

- The Branch will build effective working relationships with school authorities by developing the capacity in stakeholders to assume leadership of the Safe and Caring Schools Initiative, in partnership with the Branch.
- On May 7– 8, 2001, superintendents, central office personnel and directors of special education (who are attending the Special Education Symposium, see page 5) will have the opportunity to hear Terry Scott's presentation about Positive Behavioural Supports. If you have any questions please contact Niki Wosnack.

Guidance and Counselling

- During the next year the focus will be to:
 - explore the feasibility of establishing a code of ethics for school counsellors
 - conduct a consultation process to enhance guidance and counselling services within schools.
- Please contact Niki Wosnack if you have any questions.

Home Education

- A Home Education Package has been prepared and includes the new policy and is posted on the web site at www.learning.gov.ab.ca under Kindergarten to Grade 12 and then School Choices.
- Please contact Debby Johnston (Client Services North) or Doreen Lupaschuk (Client Services South) for further details about home education/blended programs.

Online Programs

- Information about Online Education for all Learners is available at the Alberta Online Consortium web site www.albertaonline.ab.ca.
- If you have any questions about Online Programs please contact Ron Taylor.

Outreach Programs

- The student population in Outreach programs consists mainly of students seeking non-traditional settings for one or more of the following reasons:
 - at-risk/academic difficulties
 - behavioural concerns
 - history of concerns with attendance
 - need for upgrading or fast-tracking
 - part-time employment
 - single parenting
 - social/emotional family problems.
- In Spring 2000, an information gathering survey was conducted under the leadership of the Special Programs Branch.
- Of the 75 mail surveys that were sent to principals/administrators of Outreach programs, 52 surveys were completed and returned.
- The results are posted as an *Outreach Programs Newsletter* (January 2001) on the web site at www.learning.gov.ab.ca under Kindergarten to Grade 12 and then School Choices.
- Please contact Debby Johnston if you have any questions about Outreach programs.

Early Literacy Initiative (ELI)

- In February 2000, school authorities were asked to nominate ELI programs in their schools that exemplified effective early literacy practices. Some authorities nominated all their ELI programs.
- Alberta Learning staff selected a variety of programs from the nominations representing a broad range of methodologies and approaches to early literacy instruction for the on-site visits, while ensuring geographical representation of schools varying in size in both urban and rural jurisdictions.
- Alberta Learning staff conducted over 50 on-site visits to view ELI programs, nominated by public and separate school jurisdictions, charter schools, private schools and private ECS operators as being effective in teaching literacy skills.
- When students experience early success at their instructional level, they are more likely to experience ongoing success and confidence in school.

Although Alberta Learning did not evaluate programs submitted by school authorities as providing for effective early literacy intervention, the following statements can be drawn as a summary of **key learnings** from the information collected:

Students

- Early literacy programming provides an opportunity to identify students who are experiencing difficulty in literacy skills at an early age.
- Early identification of children experiencing difficulty in developing literacy skills and the delivery of developmentally appropriate literacy strategies designed to meet their learning needs makes a significant difference to a student's self confidence, esteem and interest in reading.

Teachers

- Early literacy strategies that are effective in small group and one-on-one tutoring sessions need to be reinforced in regular classroom instruction.
- Regular, short and frequent literacy instruction is important.
- Program consistency and team planning are important.
- One-on-one assistance and small group instruction are central to the success of ELI programs.
- Understanding and support of the administration for the ELI program in their school is a key component.
- Initial and ongoing inservice, support, availability of resources and sharing of expertise in teaching ELI strategies and skills is essential.
- Early literacy is achieved through a team effort among teachers, support staff, administration and parents.

Parents

- Parental awareness, support and involvement in the program are essential.
- Parents should be provided with additional opportunities to learn about early literacy skills and work effectively with their children at home.

Please contact Darlene Hayes if you have any questions about the Early Literacy Initiative.

Implementation of the Special Education Review Recommendations

Shaping the Future for Students with Special Needs: A Review of Special Education in Alberta, released December 11, 2000, contained 66 recommendations to improve education for students with special needs.

- The government accepted in principle the recommendations of the Report. Some of the recommendations were implemented immediately, while others will be addressed through the government's business planning cycle.
- Dr. Anne-Louise Charette is the current Special Education Review Project Leader. Please contact her at (780) 422-6326 or Anne-Louise.Charette@gov.ab.ca

The Special Programs Branch also will be involved in the implementation of some recommendations, including key recommendations relating to:

- the development and use of historical jurisdiction profiles for the distribution of Severe Disabilities funding (contact Patricia Cox)
- consultations relating to the revisions to the *Guide to Education for Students with Special Needs* (contact Niki Wosnack or Barbara Morban).

Special Education Symposium May 7 - 8, 2001 in Red Deer

On May 7 – 8, 2001 the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) and Alberta Learning are sponsoring a Symposium in Red Deer.

The two-day Symposium will provide sessions relating to:

1. PBS: Developing Positive Behavioural Support Systems at the School Level
2. Identification of Students with Special Needs (i.e., mild/moderate)
3. Funding for School Authorities (including developing jurisdiction profiles)
4. Meaningful Parental Involvement
5. Program Development/Delivery (including standards relating to Individualized Program Plans)
6. Program Outcomes/Evaluation (including accountability/alternative assessments)
7. Appeals and Reviews

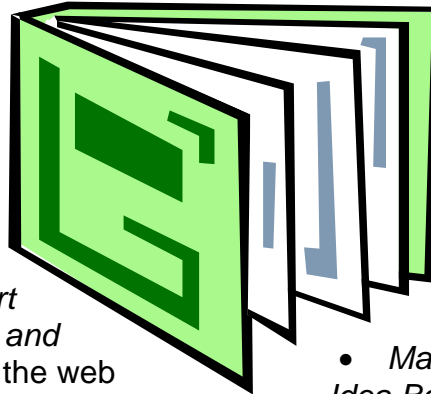
To register for the Special Education Symposium please contact Neil Gannon (CASS) at ngannon@cass.ab.ca or (780) 451-7106.

If you have any other questions about the Symposium please contact
Niki Wosnack at
(780) 422-6544.



Resource Update

- Alberta Learning will collaborate with the Alberta Associations for Bright Children (AABC) in the development of a *Handbook for Parents of Children who are Gifted and Talented* with a proposed publication date of September 2002. Contact Greg Bishop at (780) 422-0781.
- The Home Education Information Package is posted on the web site at www.learning.gov.ab.ca under Kindergarten to Grade 12 and then School Choices. Contact Doreen Lupaschuk or Debby Johnston.
- The *Student Health Partnership Service Plan Guidelines for 2001/2002* and the *Student Health Partnership Annual Report Guidelines for 2000/2001 and 2001/2002* are posted on the web site at www.gov.ab.ca/studenthealth. Contact Barbara Morban.
- The *Charter School Handbook* (1995, reprinted February 2001) is available on the web site at www.learning.gov.ab.ca under Kindergarten to Grade 12 and then School Choices. Contact Darlene Hayes, Bryna Clarke or Marc Prefontaine.
- *Teaching for Prevention and Healthy Life Skills: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention – A Teacher Resource Guide* was developed by Alberta Learning, in collaboration with the Alberta Partnership on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. The resource addresses various aspects of the health program of studies, using an approach that focuses on the development of a healthy self-concept and healthy relationships as a fundamental part of prevention. The projected publication date is June 2001. Contact Greg Bishop at (780) 422-0781.
- *Make School Work for You: An Idea Book for High School Students with Learning Disabilities* has been developed by Alberta Learning in collaboration with the Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta. The resource includes suggestions to assist students with organizational skills, test-taking skills, writing skills, classroom survival skills and study skills. The projected publication date is June 2001. Contact Greg Bishop at (780) 422-0781.



Please watch for:

- a new Connections On-line newsletter
- a newsletter (*Building a Future Together*) that will provide updates relating to the implementation of the Special Education Review recommendations
- a newsletter presenting the results of the Early Literacy Information Gathering Survey.

New Staff

- ☹ We thank and bid a sad farewell to Barbara Morgan McDermid and wish her ongoing success in her new position as she returns to Edmonton Public Schools.
- ☹ Jim McClellan has left the Branch for a one-year secondment to Project Management and Interagency Coordination within the department.
- ☺ We would like to take this opportunity to announce the appointment of four new Education Managers to the Special Programs Branch.

Betty Mackey - Betty has extensive experience as a school guidance counsellor at the elementary, junior high and senior high levels. For the past three years, she has been part of the Central Office team as the System Psychologist and more recently as the Director of Special Services for the Sturgeon School Division. Betty also has been actively involved in the deliberations, planning and implementation of the Aspen and Lakeland Student Health Initiative Partnerships. We are excited about Betty's arrival on Tuesday, April 17, 2001. Betty will be matrixed to Alberta Children and Youth Initiative to work with Sandi Roberts.

Colleen McClure - During her teaching career, Colleen worked with students with diverse needs ranging from mild/moderate to severe special needs. For the past three years Colleen has been member of the Edmonton Public Schools, Leadership Services team with key responsibilities in addressing queries regarding legislation, policies and regulations, programming eligibility and coding to ensure effective programming for students with special needs. We are fortunate to have Colleen joining us on Tuesday, May 1, 2001. Colleen will be matrixed to the Zone 2/3 Team.

Lorraine Stewart - Lorraine has most recently been working in the Parkland School Division as a Facilitator of Student Services and school psychologist. She has extensive expertise in the area of inclusive education and in particular working with students with outstanding capabilities and those with emotional/behavioural challenges. Lorraine also is very familiar with strategies to ensure safe and caring environments. We eagerly await Lorraine's arrival on Monday, June 11, 2001. Lorraine will be matrixed to Alberta Children and Youth Initiative to work with Sandi Roberts.

Wendy Jones - Wendy has experience in the field of special education at the provincial, district, and school level and most recently has been working with the Rocky View School Division as a Program Specialist, Early Intervention. Wendy's knowledge of programs and services for children with special needs includes work in the area of identification and assessment, Individualized Program Plan design, and Severe Disabilities funding. We look forward to Wendy joining the Calgary office on Monday, August 13, 2001 and she will be matrixed to the Zone 6 Field Services Team.

The Branch also welcomes three new administrative support staff:

- ☺ Shannon Pfeil, Nicole Vogel and Lesley Bokenfohr.

Special Programs Branch Staff List

PHONE #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	TEAM
422-6326	BOKENFOHR	LESLEY	RECEPTIONIST (PART-TIME)
427-5407	CLARKE	BRYNA	PROGRAMS OF CHOICE
427-5419	COOMBS	PAULA	SCHOOL-BASED
422-6502	COX	PATRICIA	FUNDING TEAM LEADER
422-6545	FAHNER	PAT	SCHOOL-BASED
(403) 297-6239	HAYES	DARLENE	PROGRAMS OF CHOICE
422-6537	HAYES	RICK	DIRECTOR
422-8554	JOHNSTON	DEBBY	PROGRAMS OF CHOICE
427-5392	LUPASCHUK	DOREEN	PROGRAMS OF CHOICE
422-6546	LUTZ	IRENE	FUNDING
422-6514	MACKENZIE	NANCY	EDITOR (PART-TIME)
422-6528	MCCLELLAN	TONY	FUNDING
422-6549	MORBAN	BARBARA	SCHOOL-BASED
422-6547	OLENEK	DARLENE	SCHOOL-BASED
422-6538	PATTERSON	BRENDA	FUNDING (PART-TIME)
422-6326	PFEIL	SHANNON	SCHOOL-BASED
422-6505	PREFONTAINE	MARC	FUNDING
415-0259	RAMSANKAR	STEVE	SCHOOL-BASED
422-6536	REID	BIRGIT	DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY
422-6541	SHELDON	CHERYL	SCHOOL-BASED
422-6551	SIMONSON	CARL	FUNDING
422-6501	SPICER	HOLLY	EDITOR (PART-TIME)
422-6966	SVITICH	MARLENE	BRANCH BUDGET ASSISTANT
(403) 297-5021	TAYLOR	RON	PROGRAMS OF CHOICE TEAM LEADER
422-6538	VOGEL	NICOLE	FUNDING (PART-TIME)
422-6503	WENDEL	TERRY	SCHOOL-BASED
422-6544	WOSNACK	NIKI	SCHOOL-BASED TEAM LEADER
422-6523	YOUNG	KATHRYN	FUNDING

E-mails for all staff are **firstname.lastname@gov.ab.ca** (for example, rick.hayes@gov.ab.ca)

Special Programs Branch e-mail: specialed@learning.gov.ab.ca

Alberta Student Loan Relief Program

New program begins August 1, 2001

Overview

The *Alberta Student Loan Relief Program* was designed to help keep student debt loads manageable and to encourage students to begin and continue on with their post-secondary learning. This program replaces the current remission program. It eliminates the application process and awards benefits automatically in qualifying students' first and final years of study.

The program will calculate benefits based on a student's total Alberta and Canada student loans, but will be applied against Alberta Student Loan funds only. This provincial program does not replace funds issued under the Canada Student Loan program.

How it works

The *Alberta Student Loan Relief Program* includes two payments awarded at two points in a student's study.

1. Alberta Student Loan Relief Benefit

The first payment is the Alberta Student Loan Relief Benefit. This benefit is automatically awarded to qualifying first-time first-year students. Students do not need to apply – eligibility will be assessed from their student loan application.

First-time first-year students are students who are entering full-time post-secondary studies for the first time.

To qualify students must:

- be a first-time first-year post-secondary student;
- receive loan assistance after August 1, 2001;
- complete their first year or, in the case of a program less than a year in length, their first semester of study;
- have been issued more than \$5,000 per academic year (or \$2,500 per semester) in federal and/or provincial student loans.

The benefit will be issued directly to the student as a cheque. Students can check their notice of assessment for dates as to when they can expect their benefit.

Once a student is issued \$5,000 (or \$2,500 per semester) in student loans, any further Alberta loan assistance in their first year will be issued as a relief benefit. The benefit will not be applied against Canada Student Loans.

Students who do not fully complete their first year (or first semester for students in shorter programs) will be required to repay the full amount of their relief benefit.

Students who do not complete their first year will have to pay back their benefit.

2. Loan Relief Program Completion Payment

The second payment students can receive is the Loan Relief Program Completion payment. This final payment is automatically awarded to qualifying students at the end of their studies.

To qualify, a student must:

- receive loan assistance after August 1, 2001;
- have confirmed that they **intend** to graduate or otherwise discontinue their studies after the loan end date on their last Alberta Student Loan application (after August 1, 2001);
- have provincial or combined federal and provincial debt that exceeds \$5,000 per academic year or \$2,500 per semester. The completion payment will be applied against Alberta Student Loans only.

Students must indicate that they are in their final year of studies on their last Alberta student loan application.

Students who meet the above criteria will be assessed automatically. The Alberta government will forward their payment to the bank where it will be applied directly to the principal owing on the student's Alberta Student Loans.

Students who do not confirm their final year of their studies on their Student Loan application, or who do not fully complete the final year of their studies, must apply for the Loan Relief Program Completion Payment. These students will have two years from their last day of full-time studies to submit an application.

Students who do not confirm their final year of studies on their student loan application must submit an application to receive their Completion Payment.

If a student returns to school and begins a new program, any further loan relief will be calculated at the end of the new program using the same criteria. They will be eligible for the completion payment only.

Transitioning between the old and new programs

During the transition period between the old remission program and the full implementation of the new Student Loan Relief Program, some students will have to apply for their awards.

Students who complete their studies before August 1, 2001 will have to submit an application for relief before August 1, 2003.

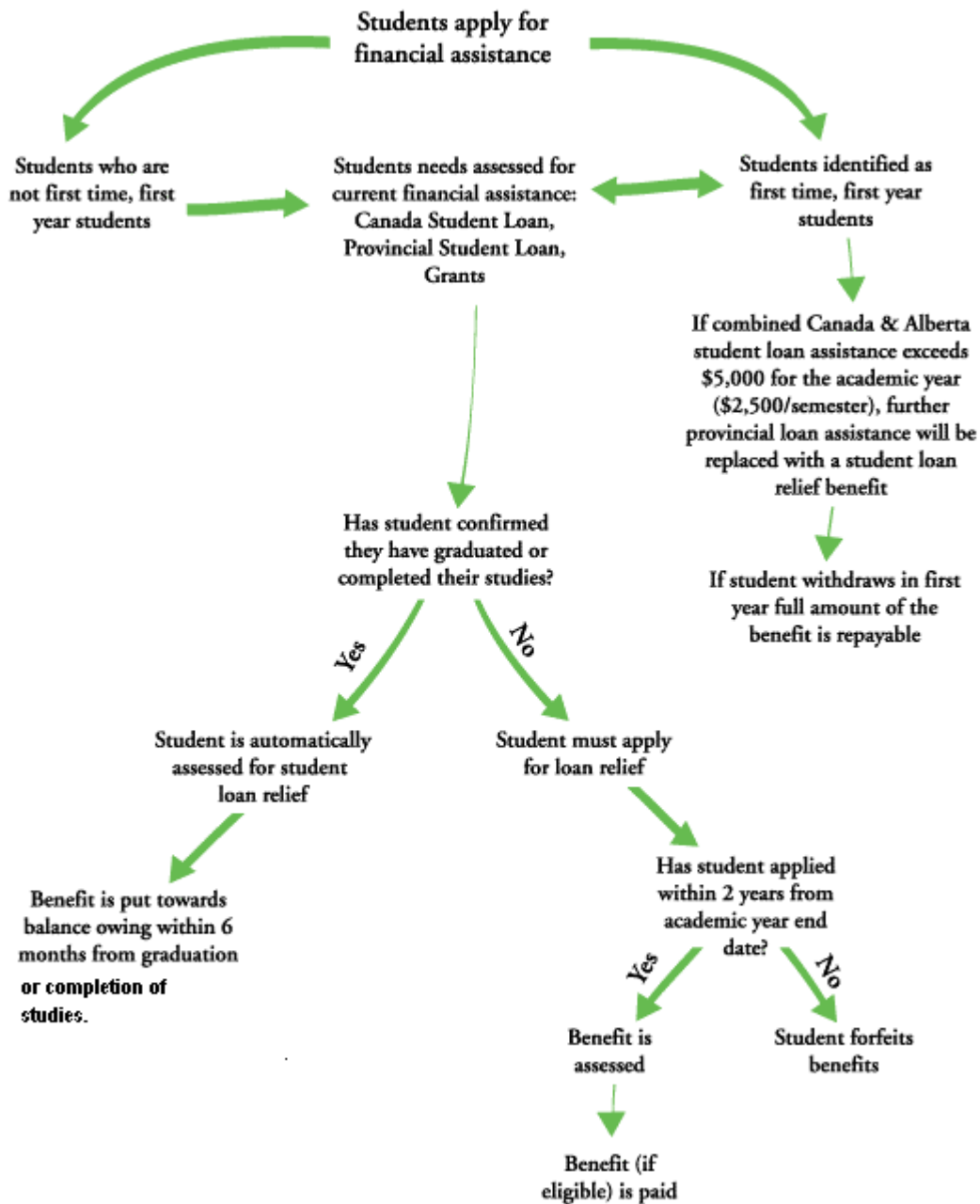
Applications are available at Alberta Career Development Centres, Canada-Alberta Service Centres, CIBC branches, and post-secondary institutions. A printable version is also available on-line at www.alis.gov.ab.ca

Students who graduate or complete their studies after August 1, 2001 but do not receive loan assistance after August 1, 2001, will have two years from their graduation or completion date to submit an application.

For more information on the Alberta Student Loan Relief Program, or other student assistance programs, please visit www.alis.gov.ab.ca.

Alberta Student Loan Relief Program

Program Overview



Alberta Student Loan Relief Program

Questions & Answers

Q What is the “new” Alberta Student Loan Relief Program?

A The Alberta Student Loan Relief Program is designed to ensure post-secondary students complete their studies with a manageable debt level. The Alberta Government may pay a portion of the student’s Alberta student loan if they meet certain criteria.

The Alberta Student Loan Relief Program includes two payments awarded at two points in a student’s study:

- **Alberta Student Loan Relief Benefit** – is automatically awarded to qualifying first-time, first-year students.
- **Loan Relief Program Completion Payment** – is automatically awarded to qualifying students upon completion of their studies.

Q How do you define a first-time first-year student?

A To be considered a first-time first-year student, a student must be entering full-time post-secondary studies for the very first time.

Q What does “completion of studies” mean? Does it mean graduating or just not continuing studies?

A Completion of studies is a broad term that applies to students who are graduating and leaving school and to students who are otherwise not continuing their studies.

Q What if a student receives a Student Loan Relief Benefit, but does not complete their first year of studies? Will they have to repay their benefit?

A Yes. If a student is awarded a Student Loan Relief Benefit but does not complete their first year (or first semester in shorter programs) they will have to repay the benefit.

Q What if a student completes their first year of studies but not their entire program, do they still have to repay their Loan Relief Benefit?

A No. The benefit only needs to be repaid if the student does not complete their first year of studies.

Q Will students in their first-year be receiving any Alberta or Canada Student Loan?

A The new Alberta Student Loan Relief Program limits debt – but does not eliminate it. To be eligible students must receive a minimum of \$5,000 in combined Alberta and Canada Student loans (or \$2,500 per semester). Any Alberta Student Loan assistance they receive beyond this point will be in the form of a Student Loan Relief benefit.

This program does NOT replace any funds issued under the Canada Student Loan program.

Q Will the Alberta Student Loan Relief Program affect students receiving other grants such as the Canada Millennium Bursary?

A No. The new program will not impact eligibility for grant programs.

Q Who receives the actual funds - the students or the banks?

A The Alberta Student Loan Relief Benefit will be given directly to the student. The Loan Relief Program Completion Payment will be given to the banks to apply to the outstanding principal on the student's Alberta Student Loans. If the student has already paid off their student loans, the Alberta Government will send a cheque in the amount of their completion payment directly to the student.

Q Who is eligible for the Loan Relief Program Completion Payment?

A To be eligible for the Loan Relief Program Completion Payment the student must have an Alberta student loan and the student's total Alberta and Canada student loans must be greater than \$5,000 per year or \$2,500 per semester. The completion payment will, however, be applied against Alberta Student Loans only.

Q When does the student have to apply for the Alberta Student Loan Relief Program Completion Payment?

A The completion payment is calculated automatically. Students only need to check off a box on their last student loan application to indicate that they will be completing their studies. The only instances where a student would have to apply for their benefits are:

- if the student completed their studies before August 1, 2001. These students are part of the old remission program and will have until July 31, 2003 to apply.
- if the student completes their studies after August 1, 2001 and does not receive loan assistance after that date.
- if the student did not complete their final year of studies.
- if the student did not confirm their final year of studies on their last Alberta Student Loan Application.

Students must apply for their Alberta Student Loan Relief Program Completion Payment within two years of completing their studies.

Q Where can students obtain the application form for the Alberta Student Loan Relief Program?

A These applications will be available at Alberta Career Development Centres, Canada Alberta Service Centres, authorized lenders, and all post-secondary institutions. The application will also be available in printable format on ALIS at www.alis.gov.ab.ca.

Q What if a student graduates and receives the Loan Relief Program Completion Payment but later returns to school. Is the student required to repay the Loan Relief?

A The student will not have to repay any of their loan relief. Although they will not be eligible for the first-time first-year Student Loan Relief benefit, further loan relief may be awarded at the end of their new program.

Alberta Student Loan Relief Program

Examples

The Alberta Student Loan Relief Benefit:

These examples demonstrate how the new Alberta Student Loan Relief Programs first payment, the Student Loan Relief Benefit, is calculated.

Ken is a **first-time first-year student in an Arts program**. He requires \$7,790 in assistance for his first year of studies.

Ken's Relief Benefit is calculated as follows:

Canada student loan	\$4,675
Alberta Student Loan	<u>\$ 325</u>
Total student loans	\$5,000
Alberta Student Loan Relief Benefit	<u>\$2,790</u>
Total assistance for year 1	\$7,790
(Total debt after 1st year)	\$5,000

Lynn is a first-time first-year student attending a private vocational school. Her **program is only one semester in length**. She has applied for a student loan and her need has been assessed at \$3,900 for her studies.

Lynn's Relief Benefit is calculated as follows:

Canada Student Loan	\$2,340
Alberta Student Loan	<u>\$ 160</u>
Total Student loan	\$2,500
Alberta Student Loan Relief Benefit	\$1,400
Total assistance for 1st semester	\$3,900
(Total debt after one semester program)	\$2,500

The Loan Relief Program Completion Payment:

This example shows how the Completion Payment is calculated.

Andy is graduating in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He has indicated on his Alberta Student Loan application that he is in his final year of studies. The debt limit for a student graduating in 2001/02 with a degree program completed in 4 years is \$20,000.

Andy's completion payment is calculated as follows:

Canada student loan	\$18,240
Alberta student loan	<u>\$13,260</u>
Total student loans	\$31,500
Minus debt limit	\$20,000
Eligible Loan Relief payment	\$11,500

Upon graduation, Andy will automatically receive \$11,500 that will be forwarded to his bank to reduce the principal on his Alberta student loan debt.

**Note: For this purpose, the above examples do not reflect other federal and/or provincial grant programs.*

Zone 5 Report (A.S.B.A.)
M.L. Kosack
From the April 27, 2001 Zone 5 Meeting
Prepared for the May 10/11, 2001
A.S.B.A. Board of Directors Meeting

BOARD SHARING

Rocky View S.D. No. 41:

- Board/executive planning session on April 23/24.
- Joint Board/School Councils meeting on April 26. Council of School Councils proposal rejected.
- Zone Drama Festival hosted at Bert Church High School in Airdrie on April 27-29.

Foothills S.D. No. 38:

- Continuing with visioning activities.
- Junior high student conference held at Red Deer Lake School.
- Budget adjustments continue.

Calgary Catholic S.D. No. 1:

- New high school (Bishop O'Byrne) on schedule.
- Budget deliberations continue.

Golden Hills R.D. No. 15:

- 2001 Reaching and Teaching conference a success, second one planned for 2002.
- New Strathmore high school slightly behind schedule.
- Joint meeting with school councils.
- New Strathmore storefront school being officially opened!

Calgary Board of Education:

- Budget being revised.
- Capital Plan finalized.
- Identifying profile for future superintendent.
- Voted to close five elementary schools.

Christ the Redeemer:

- Agreement with Canadian Rockies to share a school in Canmore.
- Hired new superintendent, Peter Doyle.

Francophone Catholic R.A. No. 4:

- Superintendent search ongoing.
- DuCharme Committee recommendations now being reviewed by Cabinet.

Francophone Public R.A. No. 4:

- Ongoing budget preparation.
- Awaiting Cabinet's action regarding the DuCharme Committee report.

Prairie Land R.D. No. 25:

- 2001-02 Capital Plan being developed.
- System evaluation being done in May.
- Undertaking a review of reserves – how much is adequate?

Edwin Parr Awards Banquet: Discussion led by Shirley Reinhardt – approximately 80 people expected at the banquet, including Dr. Oberg. A committee comprised of: Linda Wellman (Calgary Catholic), Sharon Hester (CBE), Graham Sewell (Foothills), Mary Stengler (Christ the Redeemer), Shirley Reinhardt (Golden Hills), and Zone Chair Kim Salkeld was struck to attend to the final details of this awards banquet.

Alberta Learning: Terry Pearson highlighted the written report and indicated that the School Buildings Branch was being dissolved. An Alberta student loan relief program has been announced.

Board Showcasing: Prairie Land Superintendent Art Aitken and Crystal Smith spoke on Prairie Land's *Teacher Mentoring* program. Professional development of teachers is carried out through a demonstration classroom and a mentoring model. The program includes a pre-reading package, a week in Ms. Smith's classroom and subsequent discussions.

Alberta School Boards Association Report: Budget presentation by Heather Rodgers; Zone 5 Director's Report; Discussion with questions for Vice-president Michelle Mulder and Donna Engel. Linda Wellman suggested A.S.B.A. advocacy in the following areas of concern: flexibility of funding, late capital funding announcements, future role of utilization levels in capital approvals, teacher shortages, and the lack of increase in AISI funding.

Calgary Regional Consortium: Next meeting will be on-line.

Edwin Parr: Graham Sewell reported that the candidates had been interviewed.

CSBA Congress 2001 (July 19-21): Sharon Hester reported that Zone 5 was responsible for the Saturday (July 21) pancake breakfast. One representative from each board was requested for the organizing committee. Also, need 3-5 volunteers per board to help at the actual breakfast plus volunteers to solicit corporate sponsorships. Some discussion ensued regarding board donations if corporate sponsorship fell short of the required funds.

FGM Policy Positions: Boards were reminded that this discussion was scheduled for the May 18th meeting. Calgary Catholic cannot attend, so their issues of *Health Services Funding at Previous Levels* and *Integrated Service Model Funding* were outlined.

Vice-chair John Neill presented Vice-president Michelle Mulder with student artwork from Prairie Land for the A.S.B.A. office.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm and all scurried off to find sponsors for the CSBA pancake breakfast.

RURAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

ISSUE:

Division I and II students, when riding school buses to and from school, are generally required to sit three to a seat due to funding levels provided by Alberta Learning. In the case of most Division II (grades 4 –6) rural students, this situation reduces safety to an unacceptable level.

BACKGROUND:

- The Alberta Learning formula for student transportation grants are differentiated for students in grades 7 – 12 to provide funding for two to a seat. Funding for students in grades 1 – 6 assumed these students can be transported safely while seated three to a seat.
- Canadian Standards Association publishes a formula to use in calculating legal seating. This formula allows for three to a seat seating, unless the first two students require more than 30 inches of the seating space.
- Effective in 1982, the D52 standard for school buses was developed by the Canadian Standards Association. These standards provide maximum safety for students by compartmentalizing them in the seating space. The backs of the bus seats have extra padding to reduce the chance of serious injuries in a crash.
- In order to take advantage of the compartmentalization of the school bus, students must sit squarely in the seat without extending into the aisle.
- In most cases, Division II students cannot be seated safely under the three to a seat formula. If they are seated squarely in the seat as recommended, the aisle-side student hangs over the edge of the seat, which in the case of a bus accident at the higher rate of speed at which rural buses travel, places these rural students at a much greater risk of injury than the other students on the bus.

Date of Committee of the Whole Board Meeting: May 3, 2001

TEACHER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

ISSUE

I ISSUE:

Most universities in Alberta have changed their teacher training programs to require at least (5) five years of preparation thus raising the cost of hiring beginning teachers for all school boards in Alberta.

II BACKGROUND:

- In 1971, the educational requirements for teacher certification went from two (2) years of teacher training to three (3) years.
- In 1978, the requirements were again increased requiring four (4) years of teacher training.
- The government has maintained the certification requirement at the four (4) year level to date.
- The cost of hiring a new teacher will go up by approximately two thousand twelve dollars (\$2,012.00) per additional year of teacher training based solely on university teacher preparation protocol.
- For the 2000/2001 school year Rocky View School Division hired a total of 110 new teachers. Normally, approximately 50% of our new teachers have four (4) years of teacher training. If this increases to where 100% of our new hires have at least five (5) years teacher training, this will cost Rocky View School Division one hundred and ten thousand six hundred and sixty dollars (\$110,660.00) ~ (55 x \$2012). This will obviously compound each successive year with the hiring of additional new staff.
- Instead of setting teacher salaries based on years of education, it is our recommendation that the salary grids in Alberta be set on the following:

Valid Alberta Teaching Certificate -----	4 th step
(with a minimum of four (4) years education)	
Diploma -----	5 th step
Masters Degree -----	6 th step
Doctorate -----	7 th step

This could possibly mean that teachers may no longer be required to submit documents of their teacher training to Teacher Qualification Services for determination of placement on the salary grids.

DATE: May 10, 2001