

Message from the Alberta School Councils' Association President

Regarding: Education Budget CALL TO ACTION

Dear School Council Members:

With the release of the provincial budget, the education portion clearly recognizes that the government does not see education as an investment in our future and the prosperity of our province.

This budget does not provide enough funding for school boards to appropriately address students' needs, nor does it provide for future students. And, with the announced budget also came announcements that severely restrict school boards' ability to make decisions appropriate to student needs. School boards are prohibited from reducing their classroom teacher component, and they are not allowed to use reserve funds without permission from the Minister and an approved repayment plan.

Faced with a funding shortfall, and limitations on decision-making, school boards are now confronted with one of the toughest challenges in recent history – how to meet the needs of all students.

What can we do?

I urge you to work with your school principal and school board to become knowledgeable about the potential funding impact in your school and your school division. I am asking you to meet and speak with your school board about budget and decision impacts the school division is facing and what this will mean for your schools. Talk to your principal at school council meetings – how will your school cope next year? What will be impacted? Work with your school board to connect with your MLAs (or provincial election candidates) to urge them to reconsider the education budget.

This is a shared concern – school boards and school councils and indeed, school communities *should* be concerned. We must continue to work hard – school councils and school boards -- to keep student success and the future of our public education the number one priority in the minds of our politicians.

Sincerely,



Brad Vonkeman
President