

# ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION

2016 - 2017

Annual Report

Representing parents on school councils in Alberta.

# Alberta School Councils' Association

## ANNUAL REPORT

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## PROMOTING PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) is the provincial association for parents on school council.

School councils are legislated in Alberta's School Act, providing opportunity for parents to participate in public education and contribute to student learning success.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the value of parents and the community in the education of children, and requires school councils in every school operated by a school board in Alberta.

ASCA provides supports to enhance school council effectiveness and presents the collective parent perspective to government and provincial education organizations.

*SCHOOL COUNCIL PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PARENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN AND CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC EDUCATION.*

*ASCA PROVIDES SUPPORTS TO ENHANCE SCHOOL COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION.*

School councils are structured groups of parents, principals, teachers, secondary students, and community representatives who work together to effectively support and enhance student learning. They provide a method for members of the school community to consult with, and offer advice to, the principal and the school board.

Parents play a vital role in student success and can participate in decisions that impact student learning through school council. By contributing knowledge, perspective and ideas at school council or Councils of School Councils (COSCs) meetings, parents are actively contributing to school community and school district success.

Established school councils:

- focus on what is best for all students in the school
- consider the interests of all school stakeholders
- develop, maintain and reflect the culture of the school
- represent the collective parent voice in the school community

The Alberta School Councils' Association provides support and resources, including knowledge and skill development, consultation and workshops, to enhance meaningful parent contribution and participation through school councils and COSCs across the province.

## MANDATE

As a province-wide organization of school councils, ASCA:

- Brings the parental perspective on education issues to government and others;
- Provides resources and support to enhance school council effectiveness;
- Promotes the involvement and engagement of parents in education, primarily through school councils;
- Works with other education organizations and government to promote excellence in public education;
- Provides well-researched and timely information on education to school councils.

## MISSION

ASCA will engage and support parental involvement in public education through school councils, and direct parental views and voice into the education system.

## VISION

An effective school council in every Alberta school.

## BELIEF

Parents are recognized and respected as knowledgeable, supportive contributors to their children's education, and are provided a variety of opportunities to be authentically engaged in all levels of the education system.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fortunate to serve as President over the past year, I had opportunity to work with wonderful people and learn what parents on school councils are accomplishing across this province. Here, I will present highlights of the association's activity during the 2016-2017 operating year.

ASCA membership continued to be strong - with 1,250 school council members. Almost all memberships are sponsored by their school boards. 54 of the potential 55 school districts have membership in the association. This speaks to school boards' commitment to their school councils and the value they see in parents' engagement. We thank the school boards and the Alberta School Boards Association for their continued support.

School councils, and those working with them, continue to seek ASCA's services and supports. Over 200 workshops were delivered this school year. Meeting the needs of individual school councils with prepared and/or customized workshops, we also provided supports to school-based administrator teams, central offices and partner education organizations. Our **Webinar Wednesdays** program delivered 52 sessions (*morning and evening*) throughout the year as well.

In September we launched the new School Council Resource Guide. This 20 page digital document replaces the old (146 page) binder format of the School Council Resource Manual. It contains extensive information about school council operations, roles, responsibilities, meeting management and much more. Included are 40 links to templates, tip sheets and sample documents to utilize and (always up to date) download from our website. The ASCA website is under redevelopment with improved access to resources and information and will be launched at the end of June.

On the advocacy front, ASCA participated on numerous provincial advisory committees, contributing to initiatives including *Curriculum Development, Student Learning Assessment, High School Completion, Draft Professional Standards, Minister's Youth Council, School Fees Regulation, Bill One, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Task Force, Student Health, and the Respectful Schools Project.*

ASCA assisted Alberta Education in promoting input on Curriculum Development and will continue with the next phase. Also working with the Ministry on the new Education Act (*not yet passed*) we provided extensive input into both the School Fees Regulation and the School Councils Regulation. The government introduced **Bill 1: An Act to Reduce School Fees** at the spring legislature and we are pleased it will help reduce the financial burden for many families.

A fiscally challenging year for the province, the association funding grant from Alberta Education has affected a 10% decrease for our next operating year. Board and staff have determined efficiencies with a strategic approach to accomplishing goals going forward.

We are fortunate to have the interest of the Minister of Education. I have met with him on an ongoing basis through the year and we meet with government staff on a regular basis. Our input is requested on most education issues and included in provincial discussions.

I would like to recognize our School Council Engagement Task Force participants and thank them for committing to provide feedback to the Board on issues we present to the government.

To all of you on school councils across the province, we appreciate your engagement and ongoing efforts in your schools and communities. Our accomplishments would not be possible without you and all those who paved the way before us.

Thank you for your support!

Allison Pike

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

ALLISON PIKE, LETHBRIDGE

### Vice President

DAWN MILLER, LEDUC

### Past President

BRAD VONKEMAN, RED DEER

### Directors

LAURA ANDREAS, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

LORNA SPARGO, FORT MCMURRAY

TYLA SAVARD, GRANDE PRAIRIE

JUDY DUCHARME, PEACE RIVER

DENA FRIARS, ONOWAY

BRANDI RAI, EDMONTON

HOLLIE TARASEWICH, LETHBRIDGE

JACQUIE SURGENOR, SHERWOOD PARK

ALANA SALA, RAYMOND



## AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Alberta School Councils' Association salutes the 2017 award recipients for outstanding service in their schools and communities.

### School Council PARENT of DISTINCTION Awards 2017

The School Council Parent of Distinction Award recognizes an individual who demonstrates ability to promote parental engagement and involvement in the public education system. Truly exceptional in their dedication and initiative, this individual has dynamic leadership qualities and encourages opportunity to influence student learning success in the school community.

Joy Morris	Ecole Agnes Davidson School, Lethbridge
Loreen Gomes	R.S. Fowler Junior High School, St. Albert
Myrna Knolls	Guy Weadick Elementary School, Calgary
Lisa Ware	Crawford Plains Elementary School, Edmonton
Brad Vonkeman	Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High, Red Deer

### FRIEND of ASCA Award 2017

The Friend of ASCA Award recognizes an individual in the education community whose support of Alberta School Councils' Association warrants recognition.

Adriana LaGrange, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools Trustee and President of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association



### PRESIDENT'S Award 2017

The President's award is to honour individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to public education contributing to student success.

Barry Litun, Executive Director, College of Alberta School Superintendents

## PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATION

**The provincial organization representing parents' voice in public education.**

*ASCA POLICY IS DETERMINED BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS SUBMIT ISSUES FOR CHANGE, RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) TO THE ASSEMBLY REPRESENTING THE MEMBERSHIP. CARRIED RESOLUTIONS BECOME ADVISORY POLICY STATEMENTS OF ASCA AND ARE PRESENTED AND REFLECTED IN COMMITTEE WORK.*

### **Issues for Change in Education**

Each year, on behalf of parents, school councils or groups of school councils meet regularly in Alberta and discuss education issues that affect the learning successes of children.

To influence change to these issues at the provincial level, school councils send the issues to the ASCA office in order that they be considered, discussed and debated by school council delegates province-wide at the ASCA Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Issue statements that receive majority support from voting parent school council members at the AGM become directives for action, or policy of the association - which inform the provincial advocacy work of ASCA and utilized at provincial education advisory committees to represent the collective parent voice.

### **Provincial Decision-Making**

Alberta Education and the organizations representing teachers, school boards, superintendents, universities and others, regularly collaborate on provincial level issues through joint advisory committees.

ASCA brings the collective parent voice, from member school councils, to the education committees. Committee work may include: curriculum review and development, education funding, inclusive education, technology, school facilities, teacher certification, student records management, the roles of school councils, safety and transportation, English language learning and more.

The ASCA Board also shares member input directly with the office of the Minister of Education and other provincial decision-makers.

ASCA also initiates committees or projects significant and relevant to parents on and through school councils.



## HIGHLIGHTS 2016-2017

- ❑ Built relationship with Minister of Education, Deputy Minister of Education and advocated for ASCA
- ❑ Provided input on the draft regulation that could accompany Bill 1 if it is passed
- ❑ On request, advised Alberta Education staff respecting parental engagement and school councils
- ❑ Ongoing outreach to parents and school councils through “social-media” based web platforms
- ❑ Coordinated and hosted information webinars related to the Building Inclusive Education System and High School Completion initiatives of Alberta Education through participation of Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium and CAREERS the Next Generation
- ❑ Pilot of webinar series of information sessions on school council operations for school council parents and school staff continued for a second year
- ❑ Launched the revised School Council Resource Guide digital information resource
- ❑ ASCA Parent Engagement Task Force continued for a third term
- ❑ Board members attended or participated in the following national/provincial level opportunities:
  - Prime Minister’s Awards for Teaching Excellence Selection
  - Feedback on draft Teaching Quality and School Leader Standards
  - Feedback on draft Inclusive Education Policy Framework
  - Rural Education Symposium
  - Alberta Recreation and Parks Association Conference and AGM
  - Meetings with the Education Minister
  - Meetings with provincial partner organizations

## LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL, COSC AND DISTRICT

- ❑ Provided workshop instructors and delivered ASCA workshops to district sponsored learning events for school councils
- ❑ Consulted and worked with school authority administrator teams on parent engagement/school council/council of school council relationships
- ❑ Consulted and worked with school community parents building positive relationships with principals, central office personnel and trustees
- ❑ Provided direction and information with respect to effective school councils and the distinction from school fundraising associations
- ❑ Continued to provide workshops to support school fundraising societies
- ❑ Customized workshop offerings to reflect school council experience and desired outcomes as required

## MEMBERS AND CLIENTS

- ❑ 1250 member school councils from public school districts and charter school authorities

**SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE 2016-17**

In 2016-2017, the third year of the program (formerly the Parent Engagement Task Force), the number of member school councils that opted to participate in the ASCA Board of Directors School Council Engagement Task Force is 77.

The Board consulted via email using a survey mechanism, with the identified parent liaisons from these school councils on education related topics of interest relevant to the work of the Board of Directors.

The consolidated input received included topics on the Learning Technology Policy Framework and efforts related to Diversity and First Nations, Métis and Inuit initiatives.

*The Board of Directors is appreciative of the participation of the task force school councils.*

School Districts (24 districts, 1 independent charters) 77 school councils:

Battle River	Lethbridge Public
Black Gold	Northern Lights
Calgary Board of Education	Parkland
Charter School	Peace Wapiti
Chinook's Edge	Pembina Hills
Edmonton Catholic	Red Deer Catholic
Edmonton Public	Red Deer Public
Elk Island Catholic	Rocky View
Elk Island Public	St. Albert Public
Ft. McMurray Catholic	St. Thomas Aquinas
Ft. McMurray Public	Sturgeon
Grande Prairie Public	Wolf Creek

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Each year ASCA is invited to represent the advocacy positions established by the membership at provincial level committees. From April 2016 to April 2017, ASCA participated on the following:

### Alberta Education

- Deputy Minister's Dialogue on Teaching Quality
- Curriculum Redesign Consultations
- Excellence in Teaching Awards Advisory
- International Education Week
- Building an Inclusive Education System
- High School Redesign
- Student Learning Assessment Pilot Working Group
- Diploma Exams Advisory
- Learning Technology Policy Framework
- Teaching and Leadership Excellence in Alberta
  - Sub-committee on draft Teaching Quality, School Leader and System Leader Standards

### Government of Canada

- Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence

### Alberta School Boards Association

- Education Act and Regulations Implementation
- Student Health and Wellness

### Alberta Teachers' Association

- Welcoming, Caring, Respectful Schools Project
- Growing Up Digital Survey

### College of Alberta School Superintendents

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Symposium

### Education Partner Joint Initiatives

- Partners Task Force on First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success and Wellbeing
- Rural Education Symposium

### Edmonton Public School Board

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Advisory

### Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDG)

- Calgary Region
- Central Alberta
- East Central (Learning Network)
- Edmonton Region
- Southern Alberta
- Northwest Region

## PRIORITIES

### Results Statements 2016-2019

The Board developed results statements to advance opportunities for achievement of organizational ENDS. Identifying desired results, the Board agreed upon statements for ASCA that reflect the Association's current and future priorities.

**Desired Result: Stakeholder groups in the public education system seek the Alberta School Councils' Association provincial perspective prior to implementation of new education directions and policy.**

*Objectives for 2016-19, the ASCA Board will*

- authentically represent the collective voice of parents from member school councils
  - Action: Through the use of advocacy policy positions.
  - Action: Through input from the School Council Engagement Task Force.
  - Action: Through dialogue at partner meetings; at meetings with the Minister and ministry staff; at Board appropriate external advisory committee opportunities.
- provide member based input to draft education legislation and relevant regulations as/if required
  - Action: Monitor the status of legislation that impacts education and provide feedback to ministry(s) as required/requested.
  - Action: Monitor the status of the draft regulations relevant to school councils.
- communicate effectively with elected officials and the education community at the provincial and school district levels of governance
  - Action: Stay current with developments taking place at Ministerial, District and local levels.
- elevate the understanding and value of the Association with provincial stakeholders
  - Action: Develop relationships and share appropriate organizational information according to the work outlined by the Community Engagement and/or other Committees of the Board.

**Desired Result: School councils are recognized by education stakeholders and community as essential organizational elements in every school that can be knowledgeable valuable contributors to the public education system through the Alberta School Councils' Association.**

*Objectives for 2016-19, the ASCA Board will*

- encourage school councils to recognize the importance of their advisory role in the K-12 public education system
  - Action: Continue to offer a subsidized annual conference focused on knowledge and skill development for parents involved with their school councils.

- Action: Continue to offer registered attendance opportunities to school board trustees, school administrators, school system leaders, and education ministry staff.
- Action: Provide access to information for school councils about provincial level initiatives to increase system knowledge of parents.
- Action: Accept input and perspectives from parents through school councils on provincial level initiatives.
- recognize parents contributions on school councils
  - Action: Offer a provincial level recognition and awards program.
  - Action: Encourage Alberta school councils to be as diverse as the students they serve.
- support the development of district-wide umbrella groups allowing for school councils to contribute directly at a district level
  - Action: Promote knowledge and skill development opportunities to system leaders.
- encourage system leaders to acknowledge the value of effective school councils
  - Action: Promote the importance of school council development opportunities to partner organizations as part of an overall engagement strategy.

**Desired Result: Alberta school councils know and understand the influence Alberta School Councils' Association exercises on their behalf.**

*Objectives for 2016-19, the ASCA Board will*

- commit to being up to date with respect to ongoing education initiatives and directions being contemplated by Alberta Education and other provincial association partners
  - Action: In the Alberta context, support the Call to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that speaks to Education of First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners and their families.
  - Action: Maintain bi-monthly Board discussions on emerging education issues and current initiatives progress.
- provide members the most up to date provincial developments available with respect to initiatives and directions being undertaken by Alberta Education and other provincial association partners
  - Action: Provide updates from the President.
  - Action: In collaboration with Alberta Education, organize meet and greets with ASCA Board representatives and school council parent representatives.
- inform members of any Advocacy Policy positions taken between Annual General Meetings
  - Action: Provide periodic updates as necessary on emergent education issues.

- Action: Present to the assembly of delegates at the Annual General Meeting.
- Action: Seek input from parents through member school councils regarding provincial initiative developments and progress.
- provide forums for members to express their perspectives on province-wide K-12 education issues
  - Action: Respect and advance the will of the membership on K-12 education issues identified by delegates at an Annual General meeting.
  - Action: Represent the will of the membership on K-12 education issues identified through the School Council Engagement Task Force.
- support school councils continuing to be reflected as an essential organizational element in education legislation
  - Action: Advocate to the Minister of Education and all related parties on the value of school councils as advisory to the K-12 education system at every level.
  - Action: Advocate to the Minister of Education the need to clarify problematic areas of the school council regulation.
  - Action: Encourage system leaders to work with provincial office on clear district policies for school councils.

**Desired Result: Alberta School Councils will promote and encourage knowledge and understanding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit issues in education.**

*Objectives for 2016-19, the ASCA Board will*

- commit to responding to the Calls for Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendation 10: v, vi)

*We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:*

*v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems.*

*vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children*

- Action: Provide members with resources related to the development of First Nations Métis Inuit focus in K-12 curriculum.
- Action: Encourage Alberta school councils to be as diverse as the students they serve.
- Action: Encourage school council based activities that promote understanding of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture.

## FINANCIAL

**ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As At June 30, 2016**

	2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents <i>(Note 2)</i>	\$ 455,423	\$ 525,796
Receivables <i>(Note 3)</i>	18,416	10,064
Prepaid expenses	18,924	19,341
	<u>492,763</u>	<u>555,201</u>
<b>TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS <i>(Note 4)</i></b>	<u>19,845</u>	<u>30,133</u>
	<u>\$ 512,608</u>	<u>\$ 585,334</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 22,337	\$ 42,021
Deferred membership fees revenue	9,900	50,750
Deferred contributions <i>(Note 5)</i>	4,750	59,951
	<u>36,987</u>	<u>152,722</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	195,481	149,684
Internally restricted <i>(Note 6)</i>	260,295	252,795
Invested in tangible capital assets	19,845	30,133
	<u>475,621</u>	<u>432,612</u>
	<u>\$ 512,608</u>	<u>\$ 585,334</u>

**ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Operations**  
**For The Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	2016	2015
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Government of Alberta grant <i>(Note 5)</i>	\$ 781,231	\$ 722,611
AGM and parents conference fees	87,591	91,552
Membership fees	66,040	50,200
Interest	3,731	4,632
Sponsorships and donations	2,001	1,033
Other	1,994	2,013
Fees for service	1,287	250
	<u>943,875</u>	<u>872,291</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries, wages and benefits	463,396	448,492
General and administrative expenses <i>(Schedule 1)</i>	115,378	117,304
Board expenses <i>(Schedule 2)</i>	109,100	68,393
Conference	105,204	99,542
Services	94,160	75,981
Amortization	10,289	12,357
Communications and marketing	2,319	4,167
Donations	1,020	549
	<u>900,866</u>	<u>826,785</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ 43,009</u>	<u>\$ 45,506</u>



**ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For The Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	2016	2015
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 43,009	\$ 45,506
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	10,289	12,357
	<u>53,298</u>	<u>57,863</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Receivables	(8,352)	6,189
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(19,685)	9,383
Deferred membership fees revenue	(40,850)	36,835
Deferred contributions	(55,201)	6,359
Prepaid expenses	417	(6,701)
	<u>(123,671)</u>	<u>52,065</u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>(70,373)</b>	<b>109,928</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b><u>525,796</u></b>	<b><u>415,868</u></b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR (Note 2)</b>	<b><u>\$ 455,423</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 525,796</u></b>

**ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
**For The Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	Unrestricted Net Assets	Internally Restricted Net Assets (Note 6)	Invested in Tangible Capital Assets	2016	2015
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 149,684	\$ 252,795	\$ 30,133	\$ 432,612	\$ 387,106
Excess of revenue over expenses	43,009	-	-	43,009	45,506
Transfers to internally restricted net assets	(7,500)	7,500	-	-	-
Net change in invested in tangible capital assets	10,288	-	(10,288)	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 195,481</b>	<b>\$ 260,295</b>	<b>\$ 19,845</b>	<b>\$ 475,621</b>	<b>\$ 432,612</b>





**Alberta  
School Councils' Association**

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*Promoting parent  
engagement in public education.*