

# ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION

2017 - 2018

Annual Report

Representing parents on school councils in Alberta.

# Alberta School Councils' Association

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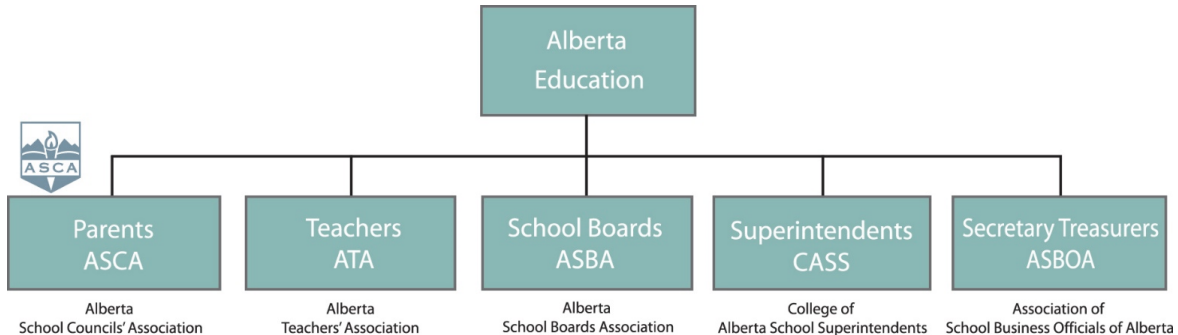
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## PROMOTING PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

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

Recognized as the voice of parents in public education, ASCA presents the parent perspective to government and education organizations in Alberta utilizing member determined advocacy policy.



The Government of Alberta recognizes the value of parents and the community to be engaged in the education of children. It is through school council that parents, community members and school staff have a means of participating in decisions that impact student learning success.

School councils were legislated in 1995 under Alberta's School Act and are mandatory for all schools in the public education system, including charter schools.

School councils are regulated groups of parents, principals, teachers, secondary students, and community representatives who work together to effectively support and enhance student learning.

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 to enhance parent engagement and school council effectiveness.

ASCA provides knowledge and skill development, consultation and workshops, to enhance meaningful parent contribution and participation through school councils 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

I've been very fortunate to serve as your President for the past two years. I have enjoyed hearing how school councils across the province are actively engaged in supporting and enhancing student learning in their schools and districts, and I've been grateful to work with some truly incredible individuals.

2017 - 2018 has been a year full of significant accomplishments, growth and embarking on new paths!

In welcoming three new board members last April, we embraced new energy and opportunities to expand our minds and work. In all discussions and decisions, the ASCA Board of Directors strives to be as representative of our members as our members are of their school communities.

ASCA has been invited to provide the parent perspective at many provincial-level committees and consultations. Representation at events held by partners and stakeholders enables ASCA to build valuable relationships and contribute important perspectives, which can inform provincial decisions.

Utilizing a variety of methods to hear from member school councils, including our Issue Resolution process for the AGM and our School Council Engagement Task Force (SCETF) input, the Board of Directors have made efforts to connect with individual school councils and/or Councils of School Councils.

ASCA membership continues to grow, with over 1330 member school councils, almost all sponsored by their school boards. This speaks to school boards' commitment to their school councils, the value they see in parents' involvement and voice they bring through school councils. ASCA greatly appreciates this show of support from school boards, as do the school councils who benefit from membership.

Helping school councils to understand and fulfill their legislated purpose in their school communities is a primary focus for ASCA. Since September, our Client Services team of Instructors and staff have provided site services to over 270 groups - individual school councils, multi-school council groups, district gatherings, as well as to groups of principals, trustees and district administrative teams. Staff responded to close to 1000 phone calls and emails from individual parents, school council chairs, executive members, principals, trustees, superintendents and parents on school-based fundraising associations.

This past year saw change that has, and will continue to have, a direct impact on how the Board can be assured that the stewardship it provides is efficient and effective.

With the departure of our former Executive Director, the Board felt it was an appropriate time to examine the ASCA Mission, Vision and Values, along with the role of the Board, processes and practices we'd been following, and what is in the best interest of the Association moving forward.

Along with hiring a new Executive Director in March, the Board of Directors recognized a need to change its model of governance. Formerly following the Carver Governance Model, members of the Advocacy and Governance Committee took on the task of creating a new Governance Policy Manual that would enable the Board to be more responsive to its member school councils.

As President, I'm proud to say that the ASCA Board of Directors - a collective group of outstanding individuals, has this past year, been steadfast in its vision to represent, to serve and to steward to the best of its abilities on behalf of members.

I am proud of the work our Association does in Alberta, and proud of the work our member school councils do in their local school communities.

Thank you!

Allison Pike

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

ALLISON PIKE, LETHBRIDGE

### Vice President

DAWN MILLER, LEDUC

### Directors

LAURA ANDREAS, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

LORNA SPARGO, FORT MCMURRAY

JUDY DUCHARME, PEACE RIVER

BRANDI RAI, EDMONTON

HOLLIE TARASEWICH, LETHBRIDGE

JACQUIE SURGENOR, SHERWOOD PARK

ALANA SALA, RAYMOND

LISA ARLINT, GROVEDALE

RICK SAKUNDIAK, SEXSMITH

SHELLEY ODISHAW, RED DEER



## AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Alberta School Councils' Association salutes the 2018 award recipients for outstanding service in their schools and communities.

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL Award of MERIT**

Eric Harvie School	Calgary, Calgary Board of Education
Light of Christ Catholic School	Lac La Biche, Lakeland Catholic Schools

### **School Council PARENT of DISTINCTION Awards**

Sheryl-Ann Giacchetta	St. Joseph's School, Coaldale
Santana Cunnington	Eric Harvie School, Calgary
Becky Galbraith	Fultonvale Elementary Junior High, Sherwood Park
Natalie Ball	Raymond Elementary School, Raymond
Bill Baillie	Greenfield School, Edmonton
Tom Henningson	Greenfield School, Edmonton

### **DISTRICT SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT Award**

Fort McMurray Public School District	Fort McMurray
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### **EXCELLENCE in LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS Award**

<b>"Mile Zero Playground" Project</b>	Grimshaw
Holy Family Catholic School Council	Grimshaw Jr. Sr. High School Parent Society
Kennedy Parent Society	Mile Zero Playground Society

### **FRIEND of ASCA Award**

Dorcas Kilduff, Former School Board Trustee,  
Parkland School Division, Spruce Grove



### **PRESIDENT'S Award**

Terry Gunderson,  
Education Consultant, Alberta School Boards Association



### **Honourary LIFE MEMBERS**

Laura Andreas, Joy McGregor, Rhonda Schumm

## 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 advocacy and committee work.

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

Each year, on behalf of parents, school councils or groups of school councils meet in Alberta at the ASCA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and discuss education issues that affect the learning success of children.

To influence change to issues at the provincial level, school councils send resolution issues to the ASCA office to be considered, discussed and debated by member school council delegates attending from across the province.

Issue resolutions that receive majority support from voting parent delegates of Member school councils at the AGM become directives for action, and policy of the association - which inform the provincial advocacy work of ASCA and utilized at 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.



## HIGHLIGHTS 2017-2018

- Fostered relationships with Minister of Education, Deputy Minister of Education and department Assistant Deputy Ministers, advocating for the parent voice of ASCA.
- Provided input on Bill 28, along with supporting draft regulations, where appropriate.
- 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.
- ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force continued for a fourth term.
- Board members attended or participated in the following national/provincial level opportunities:
  - Bill 28 consultations
  - System Excellence / Assurance Model consultations
  - Alberta Education Business Plan consultations
  - Conferences and learning opportunities attended, hosted by: Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS), Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (ASBOA), Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA), Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA) and Alberta Teacher’s Association (ATA)
  - 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 associations.
- Customized workshop offerings to reflect school council experience and desired outcomes as required.

## Members

☐ 1335 member school councils from public school districts and charter school authorities.

## School council Engagement Task Force 2017-2018

In 2017-2018, the fourth year of the program, the number of member school councils that opted to participate in the ASCA Board of Directors School Council Engagement Task Force is 26.

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 Bill I, the ASCA Conference and AGM, confidence in the Education system, and the ASCA.

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

## Schools

All Boys Program - Calgary Board of Education	Gateway Christian - Red Deer Public
Aspen Heights - Red Deer Public	Grassland - Aspen View Public
Bawlf - Battle River SD	Hazeldean - Edmonton Public SB
Brander Gardens - Edmonton Public SB	Jasper Elementary - Grande Yellowhead Public
CAPE Medicine Hat - Charter	Lois E. Hole Elementary - St. Albert Public
Christ the King Elementary & Junior High School, Edmonton - Edmonton Catholic SD	Mistassiniy - Northland SD
Christ the King Junior/Senior High School, Leduc - St. Thomas Aquinas RCS	Nellie Carlson - Edmonton Public SB
Eastview Middle - Red Deer Public	Notre Dame Catholic Elementary - St. Thomas Aquinas RCS
Ekota - Edmonton Public SB	Parkdale - Wetaskiwin Regional PS
Elizabeth Barrett Elementary - Rocky View SD	RT Alderman - Calgary Board of Education
Fort McMurray Composite High School - Fort McMurray Public	St. Joseph's - Calgary Catholic SD
G.W. Smith School - Red Deer Public	St. Nicholas Catholic Junior High School - Edmonton Catholic SD
Galbraith Elementary - Lethbridge SD	WD Cuts Junior High - St. Albert Public

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Each year ASCA is invited to represent the advocacy positions established by the membership at provincial level committees. From April 2017 to April 2018, ASCA participated on the following:

### Alberta Education

- Building an Inclusive Education System
- Diploma Exams Advisory
- High School Completion
- Curriculum Development Review
- Learning Technology Policy Framework
- Assurance Review Working Group
- Education Business Plan Engagement
- System Excellence Advisory Committee
- Student Transportation Regulation Review
- Valuing Mental Health Advisory Committee
- Respectful Schools Toolkit Working Group
- Alberta Research Network

### Alberta Teachers' Association

- Growing Up Digital

### Education Partner Joint Initiatives

- Rural Education Symposium
- ASCA/Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (ASBOA): Budget Consultation Guide

### Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC)

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

## PRIORITIES

### Results Statements 2017-2020

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 2017-2020, 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 current and emerging Alberta Education initiatives and/or legislation as required/requested.
  - 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 relevant Committees of the Board and the New2U school council initiative.

**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 2017-2020, 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 2017-2020, 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 Board meeting 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 2017-2020, 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, 2017**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b> <i>(Restated)</i> <i>(Schedule 3)</i>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents <i>(Note 2)</i>	\$ 487,480	\$ 455,423
Receivables <i>(Note 3)</i>	9,840	18,416
Prepaid expenses	4,555	18,924
	<b>501,875</b>	492,763
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS <i>(Note 4)</i>	10,310	19,845
	<b>\$ 512,185</b>	\$ 512,608
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 80,411	\$ 76,119
Deferred membership fees revenue	64,010	9,900
Deferred contributions <i>(Note 5)</i>	373	4,750
	<b>144,794</b>	90,769
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	114,036	141,699
Internally restricted net assets <i>(Note 6)</i>	243,045	260,295
Invested in tangible capital assets	10,310	19,845
	<b>367,391</b>	421,839
	<b>\$ 512,185</b>	\$ 512,608

**ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Operations**  
**For The Year Ended June 30, 2017**

	2017	2016 <i>(Restated)</i> <i>(Schedule 3)</i>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Government of Alberta grant <i>(Note 5)</i>	\$ 727,500	\$ 781,231
Annual General Meeting and Parent conference fees	91,535	87,591
Membership fees	65,928	66,040
Other	5,573	1,994
Sponsorships and donations	3,469	2,001
Interest	2,523	3,731
Fees for service	332	1,287
	<b>896,860</b>	943,875
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries, wages and benefits	494,607	452,527
Services	149,542	94,160
General and administrative expenses <i>(Schedule 1)</i>	124,552	115,378
Parent conference	86,911	105,204
Board expenses <i>(Schedule 2)</i>	77,064	109,100
Amortization	9,535	10,289
Communications and marketing	9,097	2,319
Donations	-	1,020
	<b>951,308</b>	889,997
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ (54,448)</b>	<b>\$ 53,878</b>



**ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For The Year Ended June 30, 2017**

	2017	2016
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (54,448)	\$ 53,878
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	9,535	10,289
	<u>(44,913)</u>	64,167
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Receivables	8,576	(8,352)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4,292	(30,554)
Deferred membership fees revenue	54,110	(40,850)
Deferred contributions	(4,377)	(55,201)
Prepaid expenses	14,369	417
	<u>76,970</u>	(134,540)
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>32,057</b>	<b>(70,373)</b>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>455,423</u>	<u>525,796</u>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR (Note 2)</b>	<b><u>\$ 487,480</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 455,423</u></b>

**ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
**For The Year Ended June 30, 2017**

	Unrestricted Net Assets	Internally Restricted Net Assets (Note 6)	Invested in Tangible Capital Assets	<b>2017</b>	2016
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 141,699	\$ 260,295	\$ 19,845	<b>\$ 421,839</b>	\$ 367,961
Excess (Deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(54,448)	-	-	<b>(54,448)</b>	53,878
Net change in invested in tangible capital assets	9,535	-	(9,535)	-	-
Transfer from internally restricted	17,250	(17,250)	-	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 114,036</b>	<b>\$ 243,045</b>	<b>\$ 10,310</b>	<b>\$ 367,391</b>	<b>\$ 421,839</b>



