

ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION

2018 - 2019

Annual Report

Representing parents on school councils in Alberta.

Alberta School Councils' Association

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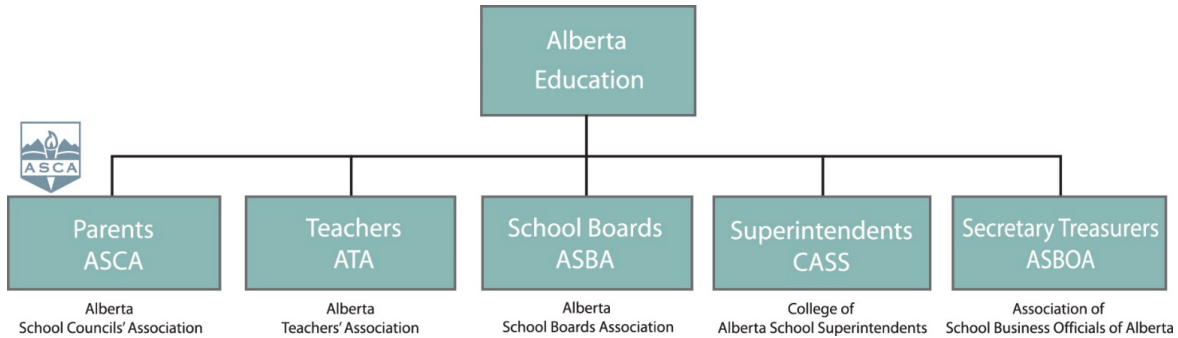
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PROMOTING PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

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.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Representation. Development. Communications.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

School councils in Alberta benefit from the advocacy representation and development supports the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) provides.

School Councils are legislated in Alberta to provide a means for parents to be engaged and involved in public education. ASCA is the provincial association representing the collective parent voice on school council in provincial education.

Parents on school councils in Alberta submit resolutions to effect change(s) in education for the benefit of student success. Proposed resolutions presented at the ASCA Annual General Meeting (AGM) that receive majority support are passed into association policy that is utilized for input at provincial meetings and committee work with the Education Ministry.

The significance of membership in the association is to provide school councils with a voice at the provincial level in public education.

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 empower Alberta school councils while advocating for the parent voice in the education system.

VISION

A respected and empowered 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 for the past three 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. I am truly grateful to work with some incredible individuals.

2018 – 2019 was a busy year for the Association, working on behalf of members, focussing on three areas of work in Representation/Advocacy, Service and Support, and Stewardship of the Association.

Eighty-seven (87%) percent of school councils eligible to be an ASCA member have done so this past year. We have over 1330 Member School Councils, out of a possible estimated 1534, and all public school districts in Alberta sponsored their school council's memberships in ASCA this year.

This is evidence of the commitment of Alberta's school boards to their school councils, the value they see in parents' involvement, and of the voice and influence school councils have at a provincial level. ASCA appreciates this show of support from school boards, and the school councils contributing to advocacy of the Association.

Our AGM is one way to hear from members, on provincial-level educational matters, but unlikely to have all 1300+ Member School Councils in attendance. The Board initiated a new process to engage members who may not attend – through the *Proposed Advocacy Resolutions Pre-Voting* held online in February and March. One hundred eighty nine (189) Member School Councils participated in the *Pre-Vote*. The Board is pleased with the first-year success, and looks forward to making the process better for next year!

The **School Council Engagement Task Force** is another way to hear from members throughout the year, as well as Directors' efforts to reach into the community and connect with individual or groups of school councils.

A primary focus for ASCA, with funding from Alberta Education's Conditional Grant, is supporting and guiding school councils to understand and fulfill their legislated purpose in their school communities.

Our Client Services team of Instructors and staff provided site services to over 150 groups this year; some of them individual school councils, some multi-school council groups and district gatherings, and some specific to groups of principals, trustees or district administrative teams. Through these deliveries, almost 450 school councils have increased their knowledge and skills in order to support and enhance student learning.

In addition, staff in the office responded to close to 1400 phone calls and emails from individual parents, school council chairs or executive members, principals, trustees, superintendents and parents on school-based fundraising associations.

An important role of the ASCA Board of Directors is to set direction for the Association, and ensure decisions of the members and Board can be acted upon with processes, skills, tools and resources available to the Association. The Board reviewed and revised the *Mission and Vision* of the Association, along with long-term goals, articulated in the 2019-2022 Vision Path.

An extensive review and revision of the Association's Bylaws took place, for member consideration at the 2019 AGM. The Board also reviewed sections of its governance Policy Manual, and made changes where necessary.

Each decision made, and action taken, reflects the views of our members, intended to support and guide school councils in their communities, and ensure long-term relevancy and sustainability of the provincial Association.

Thank you – our Member School Councils and the parents, principals, students and others who serve them - for being the reason ASCA is celebrating 90 years, and looking forward to celebrating 100!

Allison Pike

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

ALLISON PIKE, LETHBRIDGE

Vice President

BRANDI RAI, EDMONTON

Directors

LORNA SPARGO, FORT MCMURRAY

JUDY DUCHARME, PEACE RIVER

HOLLIE TARASEWICH, LETHBRIDGE

JACQUIE SURGENOR, SHERWOOD PARK

LISA ARLINT, GROVEDALE

RICK SAKUNDIAK, SEXSMITH

SHELLEY ODISHAW, RED DEER

JAELENE TWEEDLE, RED DEER

JOHN TOMKINSON, WETASKIWIN

STACY BELLEROSE, HIGH PRAIRIE



AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Alberta School Councils' Association salutes the 2019 award recipients for outstanding service in their schools and communities.

SCHOOL COUNCIL Award of MERIT

John Costello School	Calgary, Calgary Catholic School District
Tomahawk School	Tomahawk, Parkland School Division

School Council PARENT of DISTINCTION Awards

Cheryl Schneider	Blessed Cardinal Newman, Calgary
Brenda Cryer	Prescott Learning Center, Spruce Grove
Krista Scott	Fultonvale, Bev Facey, SCA, Sherwood Park
Tammy Hill	Raymond High School, Raymond
Marlene Crippin	Wye Elementary School, Sherwood Park

DISTRICT SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT Award

Calgary Catholic School District	Calgary
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FRIEND of ASCA Award

Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC)

Calgary Regional Consortium, Central Alberta Regional Consortium, Consortium provincial francophone, Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium, Learning Network Educational Services, Northwest Regional Learning Consortium, Southern Alberta Development Consortium.

The ARPDC are dedicated to promoting student learning and achievement, school improvement, and parental engagement in the educational process through the provision of professional learning opportunities at the local, regional and provincial levels.

PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATION

The provincial organization representing parents' voice on school council in public education.

Parents bring a valuable perspective to the establishment and review of provincial goals for education and the success of all students.

ASCA advocates on behalf of member school council parents with the Education Ministry to affect positive change in Alberta schools.

Advocacy Resolutions

Parents on school councils shape the future of Alberta's public education system with input through advocacy resolutions presented at the ASCA provincial Annual General Meeting (AGM).

To influence change in education, school councils in Alberta identify issues affecting early childhood services (ECS) to grade 12 students that they would like addressed, changed or resolved, and submit a *Proposed Advocacy Resolution* to ASCA for the discussion and consideration of members attending the AGM.

Resolutions that receive majority support from voting parent school council members at the AGM become belief statements, or directives for action, and form advisory positions as *Advocacy Policy* of the Association.

Advocacy Policy is the direction, or guiding statements that represent the views of ASCA members and are presented as the collective voice, or perspective, of parents on school councils in Alberta.

These views are expressed at advisory committee tables when ASCA is invited to work with government, the Education Ministry and other provincial groups, on education policy, programs and practice.

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 is invited to participate and contribute parent input based on Advocacy Policy of the membership. 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 First Nations, Métis and Inuit education.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Each year ASCA is invited to represent the advocacy positions established by the membership at provincial level committees. From April 2018 to April 2019, ASCA has been represented at, or participated on, the following:

Alberta Education

- Building an Inclusive Education System
- Diploma Exams Advisory
- High School Completion
- Curriculum Development
- Curriculum Implementation
- Assurance Review Working Group
- Education Business Plan Engagement
- System Excellence Advisory Committee
- Student Transportation Working Group
- Valuing Mental Health Advisory Committee
- Alberta Research Network
- Provincial Approach to Student Information
- Time-out, Seclusion and Physical Restraint Guidelines Advisory
- Education Budget Consultation

Education Partner Joint Initiatives

- Edmonton Public School Board First Nations, Métis, Inuit External Advisory
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI 123) (ARC Foundation) Advisory
- Joint Commitment to Action Advisory - Reconciliation
- National Forum on Wellness in Post-Secondary Education Advisory
- Red Deer College (RDC) Bachelor of Education Program Advisory Committee (BEDPAC)
- Rural Education Symposium Advisory and Planning
- WE Schools Advisory
- Well Ahead Advisory
- Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA) General Meeting
- Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) General Meetings
- Alberta Teacher's Association (ATA) Annual Representative Assembly (ARA)
- Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (ASBOA) Conference
- College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Conferences & FNMI Gathering
- Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) General Meetings
- Next Generation (CAREERS)
- Rural Education Symposium

Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDG)

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

HIGHLIGHTS 2018-2019

- Fostered relationships with Minister of Education, Deputy Minister of Education and department Assistant Deputy Ministers, advocating for the parent voice via ASCA;
- Coordinated twenty-four (24) parent/community engagement sessions featuring the draft K-4 Curriculum;
- 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 fifth term;
- Board members attended or participated in numerous national/provincial level opportunities.

Local School Council, Groups of School Councils and District Engagement

- 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 difference with school fundraising associations/societies
- Continued to provide workshops to support school fundraising associations/societies
- Customized workshop offerings to reflect school council and/or district experience and desired outcomes as required

Members

- 1333 Member School Councils from public school districts and charter school authorities; one (1) Associate Member (private school).

School Council Engagement Task Force

In 2018-2019, the fifth year of the program, the number of Member School Councils that opted in to participate on the ASCA Board of Directors School Council Engagement Task Force is 45.

The Board consulted with the ASCA Member School Councils six times during the 2018-2019 school year. Feedback and input was gathered via email using a survey mechanism, with the identified parent liaisons from these 45 ASCA Member School Councils on education related topics of interest relevant to the work of the 2018-2019 Board of Directors.

The consolidated input received for each topic is available on the "[What We Heard](#)" page of the ASCA website.

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

Schools/Districts

Barnwell – Horizon	Lochearn – Wild Rose
Bawlf School – Battle River	Milk River - Horizon
Bev Facey – Elk Island Public	Mountain View – Westwind
Brightview – Edmonton Public	Parkallen - Edmonton Public
Cooper’s Crossing – Rocky View	Pine Street - Elk Island Public
Dr. Martha Cohen – Calgary Public	Queen Alexandra - Edmonton Public
École Barrie Wilson – Red Deer Public	Raymond High - Westwind
École Father Jan – Greater St. Albert Catholic	RT Alderman - Calgary Public
École Joseph Moreau – Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord	Spring Glen - Westwind
École Leo Nickerson – St. Albert Public	St. Gabriel – Fort McMurray Catholic
École McTavish – Fort McMurray Public	St. Maria Goretti – Calgary Roman Catholic
École Notre Dame – St. Thomas Aquinas	Stony Plain Central – Parkland
Ekota – Edmonton Public	Teepee Creek – Peace Wapiti
Eleanor Hall – Pembina Hills	Thickwood Heights - Fort McMurray Public
Erle Rivers – Horizon	Tuscany - Calgary Public
Esther Starkman – Edmonton Public	Victoria School of the Arts - Edmonton Public
Fultonvale - Elk Island Public	Westview - Fort McMurray Public
G W Smith - Red Deer Public	Westwood High - Fort McMurray Public
Glenbrook - Calgary Public	Whispering Ridge - Peace Wapiti
Hazeldean - Edmonton Public	Wilson Middle – Lethbridge Public
Lauderdale - Edmonton Public	Woodbridge Farms - Elk Island Public
Lethbridge Christian – Lethbridge Public	Wye - Elk Island Public
	York School - Edmonton Public

PRIORITIES

Vision Path 2019-2022

The Board developed statements to advance achievement of organizational goals or “destinations” for ASCA that reflect the Association’s current and future priorities.

Destination: The Ministry of Education and partners in the education system seek the Alberta School Councils’ Association provincial perspective prior to implementation of new education directions and policy.

Priorities for 2019-2022, the ASCA Board will

- Genuinely assemble and communicate the broad perspectives of parents through our 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.
 - Action: Be knowledgeable about Alberta’s education system and political environment.
 - Action: Provide opportunities for school councils to enhance their capacity for engagement.
- Elevate the understanding and value of the Association with the Ministry of Education and partners in the education system.
 - 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.

Destination: School councils in rural, urban and metro communities are recognized by education stakeholders and community as essential organizational elements in every school that are knowledgeable, valuable contributors to the education system through the Alberta School Councils' Association.

Priorities for 2019-2022, the ASCA Board will

- Empower school councils to recognize the importance of their advisory role in the K-12 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.

Destination: ASCA Member School Councils are aware of, and contribute to, the influence the Alberta School Councils' Association casts on their behalf.

Priorities for 2019-2022, 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.

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

Priorities for 2019-2022, 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, and 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.
- Encourage school councils to be ambassadors of, and bridges to, the diverse cultures of their school communities.
- Action: Model broad and varied methods of providing information to, and gathering feedback from, Alberta school councils.

Destination: Partnerships, relationships, and strategic alliances strengthen the efforts and influence of Alberta school councils and the Alberta School Councils' Association.

Priorities for 2019-2022, the ASCA Board will

- Pursue, build and nurture relationships with diverse populations and organizations seeking to enhance parent and school council engagement in student learning.
- Action: Increase director capacity to confidently represent ASCA.
 - Action: Increase director representation in provincial engagement opportunities.
 - Action: Initiate conversations with the Ministry and partners in the education system.

FINANCIAL

ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION

Statement of Financial Position

As At June 30, 2019

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)	\$ 405,744	\$ 507,896
Receivables (Note 4)	11,882	11,370
Prepaid expenses	7,608	9,501
	<u>425,234</u>	<u>528,767</u>
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS (Note 3)	100,000	-
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 5)	720	1,012
	<u>\$ 525,954</u>	<u>\$ 529,779</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 86,919	\$ 69,102
Deferred membership fees revenue	41,277	48,880
Deferred contributions (Note 6)	373	373
	<u>128,569</u>	<u>118,355</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	81,665	167,367
Internally restricted net assets (Note 7)	315,000	243,045
Invested in tangible capital assets	720	1,012
	<u>397,385</u>	<u>411,424</u>
	<u>\$ 525,954</u>	<u>\$ 529,779</u>

ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION
Statement of Operations
For The Year Ended June 30, 2019

	2019	2018
REVENUE		
Government of Alberta grant <i>(Note 6)</i>	\$ 654,750	\$ 704,750
Parent Conference fees	131,220	120,267
Membership fees	87,375	79,180
Interest	6,587	2,793
Sponsorships and donations	4,823	2,768
Annual General Meeting	3,900	1,640
Fees for service	3,002	600
Other	245	192
	891,902	912,190
EXPENSES		
Salaries, wages and benefits	454,081	408,746
Services	138,298	151,762
Parent conference	99,886	87,999
General and administrative expenses <i>(Schedule 1)</i>	89,885	104,273
Board expenses <i>(Schedule 2)</i>	86,402	77,218
Annual General Meeting	33,744	26,154
Communications and marketing	2,773	2,709
Donations	580	-
Amortization	292	9,296
	905,941	868,157
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (14,039)	\$ 44,033

ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
For The Year Ended June 30, 2019

	Unrestricted Net Assets	Internally Restricted Net Assets (Note 6)	Invested in Tangible Capital Assets	2019	2018
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 167,367	\$ 243,045	\$ 1,012	\$ 411,424	\$ 367,391
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(14,039)	-	-	(14,039)	44,033
Amortization of tangible capital assets	292	-	(292)	-	-
Transfers	(71,955)	71,955	-	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 81,665	\$ 315,000	\$ 720	\$ 397,385	\$ 411,424

ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION
Statement of Cash Flows
For The Year Ended June 30, 2019

	2019	2018
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (14,039)	\$ 44,033
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	292	9,296
	<u>(13,747)</u>	<u>53,329</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Receivables	(513)	(1,529)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	17,818	(11,308)
Deferred membership fees revenue	(7,603)	(15,130)
Prepaid expenses	1,893	(4,946)
	<u>11,595</u>	<u>(32,913)</u>
	<u>(2,152)</u>	<u>20,416</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Purchase of investments (net)	<u>(100,000)</u>	-
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW	(102,152)	20,416
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>507,896</u>	<u>487,480</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR (Note 2)	\$ 405,744	\$ 507,896

