

EDMONTON, June 27, 1995

"I'm pleased to announce that this year government will provide up to \$1.9 million in initiative funding to support effective school councils and teaching. The dollars will be used to co-ordinate inservice opportunities for members of school councils, teachers, and other Albertans involved in delivering quality education to Alberta students."

Halvar Jonson
Education Minister

EDUCATION MINISTER HALVAR JONSON ANNOUNCES UP TO \$1.9 MILLION TO SUPPORT SCHOOL COUNCILS AND SCHOOL-BASED DECISION MAKING

"Parents, teachers, principals and other education partners have told us they want help in preparing for their changing roles and responsibilities," said Education Minister Halvar Jonson. "To assist with the successful implementation of school councils and school-based decision making, and to support teachers' professional development, government will fund regional consortia -- groups who will coordinate training opportunities across the province."

Consortia will inventory, broker, co-ordinate, and evaluate available training and development resources. "Linking local, regional and provincial resources is an efficient and effective way to help all education partners develop the knowledge, skills and abilities they need. It's important to establish and fund these groups as soon as possible to support school board education plans and the province's three-year plan," said Jonson.

Last week Mr. Jonson met with education partners to discuss ways in which the groups could cooperate in supporting and responding to changes occurring in our education system. The meeting included representatives from the Alberta School Boards Association, the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Alberta Home and School Councils' Association and the faculties of education at the Universities of Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge.

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In addition to the Minister's commitment to provide funding, the Alberta Home and School Councils' Association and the Alberta Teachers' Association have agreed to continue their work developing an orientation manual for school councils. The Alberta School Boards Association is taking the lead role in developing an electronic mail directory to improve information sharing among education partners.

"Our students benefit from the spirit of cooperation among education partners in Alberta," said Jonson. The willingness of all stakeholders to contribute expertise and resources will ensure quality education programs in our schools."

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