

Alberta Education
44 Capital Blvd.
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Edmonton, AB
T5J 5E6

Minister Adriana LaGrande,

The Raymond Elementary School Council has appreciated the opportunities to be involved and contribute to provincial education through the Alberta School Council Association (ASCA). We believe that parents are children's primary caregivers, and are valued in contributing to their children's education. It has come to our knowledge that ASCA's funding has been reduced considerably. With the defunding of ASCA, we feel this is showing that Alberta Ed does NOT value parents' contribution to education. As a school council in this province, we are quite discouraged by this news as we feel that they will not be able to function effectively.

We recognize ASCA as our school council's "voice" to Alberta Ed. It is our practice, as a school council, to use ASCA as our main avenue of communication to Alberta Ed. All school councils contribute to ASCA's policies and representation to Alberta Ed, through their annual general meeting (AGM). We feel that the system is set up to collect a fair representation of all school councils and therefore the majority of parents voice across the province.

It is our understanding that Alberta Ed has hand selected a group of parents throughout the province to be the "voice" of all parents. We believe in our provincial democracy where the parents will vote for who will represent them and vote in a majority as to what messages we want to be voiced to Alberta Ed. This small hand selected group of parents is NOT a fair representation of the majority of parents' voices from across the province.

We respectfully ask that Alberta Ed discontinue this private group of parents, and no longer consider this as their avenue of collaborating with parents. We further ask that ASCA's funding be reestablished in full so that they can resume their support to all school councils.

Sincerely,

Raymond Elementary School Council (RESC)