

P21-XX

Addressing barriers to student-centred public education

Sponsored by: Ecole St Gerard, Grande Prairie Catholic School Division

Contact: Mark Woods, Ecole St Gerard, Grande Prairie Catholic School Division,
stgerardschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Background /Overview:

There are multiple organizations within Alberta Education working towards the same goal of advancing public education; however, there are no official mechanisms for parents and students to collaborate with all relevant stakeholder to confront barriers to student-centred education.

Because Canada ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child¹ (“the Convention”) on December 13, 1991².

Because Article 28.1(b) of the Convention states that States Parties shall: *“Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child.”*

Because Article 29.1(a) of the Convention states: *“Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to: (a) The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential.”*

Because significant barriers to access in Alberta’s Education system have been brought to public attention throughout 2019 and 2020 illustrates that choice may exist for some, but for an increasing number of Alberta families, there is no meaningful student-centred, public education and the workflows to resolve this gap place the administrative burden on those underserved families.³

Because all Alberta education organizations should collaborate to put Alberta children first.

We request that ASCA advocate to the Ministry of Education to jointly develop a policy and practice framework for all educational stakeholders to address barriers to student-centred education including disputes between stakeholder organizations within the sphere of influence of Alberta Education.

We further request that ASCA nominate a sub-committee or advisory panel from the membership to participate in the joint development of the aforementioned policy and practice framework as well as an organizational chart offering a clear line of sight from parents to the Minister with a documented escalation process.

We further request that ASCA undertake the development of a new workshop and content for School Councils to improve access to appropriate decision-making authorities where they have experienced barriers in accessing student-centred education.

¹ The Convention: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

² Canada Convention on the Rights of the Child: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/canada-united-nations-system/reports-united-nations-treaties.html#a6>

³ CBC Article: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/education-minister-rally-1.5692581>