



ALBERTA
EDUCATION

Office of the Minister

NOV 12 2020

Ms. Brandi Rai
President
Alberta School Councils' Association
9925 109 St NW #1200
Edmonton, AB T5J 3M9

Dear Ms. Rai,

I want to thank your team for submitting your application for conditional grant funding for the Alberta School Councils' Association. I value parent perspectives and I am committed to clearly understanding those perspective by continuing to work closely with ASCA, parent councils directly and with school board trustees who are elected by parents and other constituents in their jurisdictions.

Given the economic climate we are facing, both my ministry and I have been carefully reviewing every grant that our ministry funds. After careful consideration, I have decided to shift ASCA's taxpayer-funded grant funding to be more inline with that of the grants government provides to other education stakeholders, such as the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Alberta School Boards' Association, the College of Alberta School Superintendents and the Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta. As such, I have approved a 1-year grant of **\$170,000** for your organization to carry out specific work identified by Alberta Education, which is listed in **Appendix A**.

As you are aware, in previous years Alberta Education provided grant funding which funded ASCA's complete operations. This was unique, and was not in line with how other education stakeholders were funded. By shifting funding to support specific projects and work conducted by ASCA, your grant is now in alignment with how other education stakeholders are funded. This is also in line with the MacKinnon Panel's 5th recommendation, which recommended that government reduce the proportion of funding directed to administration and system supports in order to ensure a greater percentage of funds goes directly to classrooms and students.

In line with that recommendation, the difference in funding from ASCA's 2019/20 and 2020/21 grants will be reallocated to where it can make the biggest difference in student learning, our classrooms.

I recognize that in the past, ASCA has relied on grant funding from government to fund operations, and that these changes will require time for your organization to adapt. It is my understanding that in addition to the \$170,000 Alberta taxpayers are funding for the 2020-21 school year, you also have roughly \$250,000 in taxpayer-funded reserves. Between this taxpayer funding and your projected \$87,000 in revenue from membership fees, I anticipate you will be able to transition with success.

I understand that this decision may not be what you had hoped for, but I am confident that it is the right decision for Alberta's education system. Not only are we bringing ASCA's taxpayer funding in alignment with other education stakeholders, we are also directing more funding to directly support our children.

As a mother of 7 and as a former trustee, I am a huge proponent of the work school councils do across our province. I am looking forward to our continued work together in the weeks and months ahead.

228 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone 780-427-5010 Fax 780-427-5018

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Classification: Protected A

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adriana LaGrange". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' and 'L'.

Adriana LaGrange
Minister

Appendix A: Grant Summary

CC: Wendy Keiver, Executive Director, Alberta School Councils' Association
Andre Corbould, Deputy Minister, Alberta Education

Appendix

ASCA Conditional Grant Funding

Government will consider an application for conditional grant funding for a project from ASCA in the following area:

- *The provision of resources, services and supports to school councils and other key stakeholders to ensure they have the knowledge and ability to support the implementation of the new Assurance Framework and professional practice standards for leaders.*

Such a project supports government priorities to implement a new Assurance Framework, including new professional practice standards for leaders, and would align with Alberta Education's Business Plan Outcomes 3 (Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders, and school authority leaders) and 4 (Alberta's K-12 education system is well governed and managed). The Alberta School Councils' Association's proposal of June 29, 2020 similarly recognizes these areas in deliverables 3 and 4. In addition, the above project area recognizes the Alberta School Councils' Association's expertise in providing resources and supports to school councils in Alberta.

Government will support conditional grant funding of up to \$170,000 to support this work. For questions about the grant, please contact Karsten Koch, Manager, Leadership Excellence (karsten.koch@gov.ab.ca)