



## DRAFT 2022 ASCA AGM PROPOSED ADVOCACY RESOLUTIONS

**P22-03**

### **Restoration of Funding for Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)**

Sponsored by: Gateway Christian School Council, Red Deer Public School District

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#### ***Background / Overview:***

As parents of students in public school education in Alberta we are gravely concerned that the direction this government has taken in **defunding** our Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) will dramatically weaken the collective voice of parents in this province. This move by the Minister has occurred during a time when the focus of many school councils has been on the Covid-19 pandemic, and both the funding cuts and the creation of the Minister's Parent Advisory Group have been initiated without broader parent consultation.

Alberta's Education Act states: ["education is a shared responsibility and requires collaboration, engagement and empowerment of all partners in the education system . . ."](#) (pg. 11). To that end, the Ministry has legislated school councils as a voice of parents and other stakeholders in education. School Councils represent a truly democratic parent voice. All parents of students in schools under the jurisdiction of Alberta Education are eligible members of school councils. ASCA has then acted as an umbrella organization, a conduit through which information can be shared between school councils and between school councils and the Minister. In addition, ASCA provides vital training to assist school councils in meeting their legislated role. The selected Minister's Advisory Group stands in opposition to this democratic voice and provides no reciprocal service to school councils.

***Because:*** ALL parents of students in Alberta schools will have the continued strong voice in education that ASCA provides.

***Because:*** School Councils will continue to have the professional development and training services provided by ASCA in order to ensure they can best accomplish their legislated role, and that School Councils will continue to have an effective conduit of information sharing.

***Because:*** As an umbrella organization, ASCA represents over 1300 school councils in the province.

***We request*** that the Minister of Education provide a full and public explanation for the decisions to de-fund ASCA and to create the 35-Member Minister's Parent Advisory Group.

***We further request*** that the Minister of Education initiate a full and broad consultation into the decision to de-fund ASCA

***We further request*** that the Minister of Education reconsider the function of the 35-Member Minister's Parent Advisory Council.

***We further request*** that the Minister of Education validate the important role of ASCA in supporting school councils by reinstating reasonable funding.

In order to ensure the continued strong and democratic, non-partisan voice of parents in education.