Alberta School Councils' Association

207, 11010.142 Street Edmonton AB T5N 2R1 Phone 780.454.9867 or 1.800.661.3470 Fax 780.455.0167 www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca

June 17, 2025 Via Email: <u>education.minister@gov.ab.ca</u>

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides Minister of Education Office of the Minister, Education 423 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Re: Indoor and Outdoor Air Quality Concerns

Dear Minister Nicolaides,

I am writing to bring to your attention the pressing issue of Air Quality and HVAC concerns in schools across our province. We have received numerous concerns from parents, most of which have also been sent to your office, regarding the Air Quality in Schools and the inadequacies of HVAC systems which have raised alarm bells amongst educators, parents, and students alike.

Last year we introduced you to Advocacy Policy 24-03, highlighting the issues with respect to Air Quality and under-engineered HVAC systems.

During my recent visit to Highlands School (EPSB), I personally experienced the discomfort caused by poor air quality and insufficient cooling capabilities. The prevailing conditions have been escalating in recent years leading to canceled sporting events, health issues among students, and an overall challenging learning environment.

While we appreciate the recent announcement to increase funding for school maintenance and renewal projects, it is essential to address the specific needs of upgrading HVAC systems and improving air purification in ALL schools. The impact of repeated fire seasons on students' well-being cannot be understated, and proactive measures must be taken to ensure a safe and conducive learning environment.

I urge your government to prioritize investments in modern HVAC systems that provide clean air and effective cooling and heating systems to protect the health and well-being of our students. In collaboration with education stakeholders, we agree that addressing these infrastructure challenges should be a priority in ensuring a supportive learning environment for all.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to seeing positive changes that will benefit our learning environments and students.

Sincerely,

Ken Glazebrook (he/him)

President

Cc: Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta; Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services; Honourable Martin Long, Minister of Infrastructure; MLA Amanda Chapman, Shadow Minister for Education; MLA Sara Hoffman Shadow Minister for Health; Education and Childcare Deputy Minister, Lora Pillipow; Chief of Staff to Minister Nicolaides, James Johnson; ASCA Board of Directors.