



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Consistency in School Library Standards Welcome, But Misses Mark on Supporting Professionals

### Alberta School Councils Association's Statement Regarding Ministerial Order on School Library Materials Standards

**Edmonton, AB – July 14, 2025** – While Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) supports consistency in school library material standards across the province, says President Ken Glazebrook, support for school professionals is missing in the implementation of the new *Standards for the Selection, Availability, and Access of School Library Materials* Ministerial Order.

"School library practitioners and educators have the specialized skills needed to assess materials in the ways required in these new standards," he said. "This Ministerial Order, unfortunately, overlooks their training and downloads these responsibilities onto educators who are already juggling so much."

ASCA has continually advocated to the Ministry of Education and Childcare for targeted funding for libraries and their associated programming, which includes the professionals who support these vital education hubs.<sup>1</sup> While schools that share municipally funded library facilities may choose to collaborate with those library professionals, this is not the reality for the majority of school libraries in Alberta and leaves most schools without adequate support to ensure up-to-date and age-appropriate content for our students.

Given the expedited timeline between consultation and policy development, added Glazebrook, it is unlikely enough consultation was given to all education stakeholders. He highlighted again that **ASCA is ready, willing, and able to support consultation opportunities at any point in the policy development process to ensure the parent voice is appropriately represented.**

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<sup>1</sup>**Note:** This is a specific reference to *Advocacy Policy 01-11 - School Libraries*:

*That the Minister of Education ensure the commitment to quality K-12 public education by providing designated support to school jurisdictions for ongoing development of integrated library programs/learning commons related to the currently mandated program of studies.*

A list of current ASCA Advocacy Policies can be found [on our website](#).

#### About Alberta School Councils' Association

Formed in 1929, the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) supports the engagement, empowerment, and advocacy of the parent voice in public education. With the vision of a respected and empowered school council in every Alberta school, ASCA represents approximately 1200 school councils and their members as part of the network of education partners and stakeholders within Alberta's Education framework. Offering professional development opportunities and resources for school councils, school authorities, administrators, trustees and partner organizations, ASCA is the trusted voice of parent engagement in public education.

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