



Monday, July 7, 2025

Sent via email: education.minister@gov.ab.ca

The Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides
Minister of Education and Childcare
Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue NW
Edmonton AB T5K 2B6

Re: Survey results regarding materials in K-12 libraries, new Aggression and Complexity in Schools Action Team

Dear Minister Nicolaides,

First, we would like to thank you for taking the time to consult Albertans for insight while considering updates to the standards for age-appropriateness of materials available to students in school libraries. We also want to extend our gratitude for addressing immediate, short- and long-term solutions regarding classroom complexity. As the voice of parents through school councils in Alberta since 1929, we look forward to being involved in the next steps of both the creation of provincewide standards for library materials for school authorities, and as part of the new *Aggression and Complexity in Schools Action Team*.

Regarding the library materials survey results, we feel the survey results highlight the confidence Albertans have in our professionals, both teachers and school librarians, to be trusted to decide what materials are age-appropriate for our school communities. It also highlights the shared belief that collaboration needs to occur between parents, teachers, staff and administrators, to ensure students are receiving appropriate instruction and materials in a safe and welcoming environment. In consideration of this, as well as a letter sent to you by the Library Association of Alberta (LAA), Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) would like to voice our support in calling for "investment in the system and professionally trained library staff to curate balanced and responsible access to a broad range of materials for all students".

We have heard from our members whose library spaces are shared with municipalities who are concerned that while changes would not affect their library materials directly, policy changes will affect other library spaces and material accessibility within the same district. This creates a concern regarding equity of access to materials. Other concerns have been raised regarding the expedited timeline with which school authorities will be expected to implement these standards, some of whom are also facing pressures relating to the delays in implementation guidance as part of the *Education Amendment Act (2024)*.

To be clear, we support the creation of consistent provincewide standards for the selection and maintenance of library materials in schools, with the consultation of the parent voice through ASCA and trained library professionals in addition to school authority administrators and school board trustees. We agree, as you've personally stated, that this is not related to any subject; nor should it be difficult to agree on high-level parameters that strike a balance between educational enrichment and positive literary experiences.

As you know, ASCA is a consistent advocate to your ministry for continued safe and supportive school environments for all staff and students. Regarding the new *Aggression and Complexity in Schools Action Team*



we again agree with you, as you stated today in your June 30, 2025, news conference, that every student and staff member deserves to feel safe, respected, and supported at school. We want to echo ASBA President Marilyn Dennis' gratitude for your ongoing commitment to effective learning environments for students and staff across the province. The *Aggression and Complexity in Schools Action Team* represents your government's clear commitment to ensuring this occurs.

Teachers' working conditions are our children's learning conditions, and our children need to have appropriate representation as part of this *Action Team* by way of the parent voice. Unfortunately, we feel with both recent announcements there has been a marked lack of inclusion of the parent perspective. Alberta School Councils' Association is ready, willing, and able to support these conversations and be an active partner with the Ministry of Education in order to ensure the parent voice is appropriately represented. Between our over 95-year history in education in Alberta and our representation of nearly 1200-member school councils across the province, excluding us from this dialogue overlooks our shared history and limits opportunity for a collaborative and aligned approach to policy development and implementation of these initiatives for all parties involved.

We sincerely look forward to representing the parent voice as part of these initiatives, and will be contacting your office this week to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Yours in partnership,

Ken Glazebrook
President

Meagan Parisian
Vice President

CC:

James Johnson, Chief of Staff to Minister Nicolaides
MLA Amanda Chapman, Shadow Minister for Education
Lora Pillipow, Deputy Minister – Education and Childcare
ASCA Board of Directors,
Wendy Keiver, ASCA Executive Director