



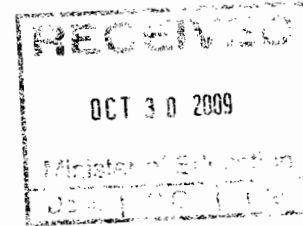
9809 MAIN STREET  
FORT McMURRAY  
ALBERTA T9H 1T7

PH. (780) 799-5700  
Fax (780) 799-5706

FORT McMURRAY  
CATHOLIC BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

October 29, 2009

Honourable Dave Hancock  
#224 Legislature Building  
10800 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6



Dear Honorable Minister Hancock:

**Re: Amendment to the Alberta School Act**

In response to your request for suggested amendments to the Alberta School Act, our Board has chosen to focus on the "big picture" only, and do agree that a smaller, more efficient School Act is vital to moving education forward.

The following issues are those that our Board regards as critical for inclusion in amendments to the Alberta School Act.

- The new School Act should incorporate the principal of **subsidiarity** indicating that matters should be handled by the smallest, lowest or least centralized authority.
- A **special taxation levy** should be available to School Districts through School Board motion after public consultation. The School Board should be able to collect an additional 3% of its budget on a yearly basis and not be subjected to a "claw-back" by the Government due to the additional revenue.
- The concept of **natural person power** whereby the School Board can undertake any initiative unless it is expressly prohibited by the School Act.
- The School Act needs to address where the responsibilities of social service agencies end and the responsibilities of the Education system begin and/or end. The Act should address this issue and provide a governance model of **integrated service delivery** including clear lines of authority, accountability and funding.

*Catholic Schools... Making a Difference*

Our last point for consideration, which may or may not need to be covered by the School Act amendments:

The current **Funding Framework** as written is reasonably equitable. However, the application of the framework from District to District is not happening in a consistent manner. The School Act or perhaps regulations created as a result of the School Act revision, need to include provisions for the enforcement including checks and balances regarding the application of the Funding Framework. We will be sending you a further letter regarding the Funding Framework in the near future.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Carbery  
Board Chair  
Fort McMurray Catholic Board of Education

c.c. K. Henke, Deputy Minister  
K. Jones, Director, Zone 2/3 Services Branch