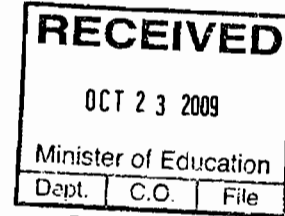


## Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7

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October 16, 2009



Hon. Dave Hancock  
Minister of Education  
#224 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Hancock:

**RE: *School Act Review***

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the *School Act* review.

Our Board reviewed the proposed foundational themes outlined in the *School Act Review* – Discussion Paper for Legislative Review and offer the attached comments for consideration.

We look forward to working with you on the proposed legislation.

Yours truly,

Clayton Jespersen  
Board Chairman

Attachment

cc. Hon. Ken Kowalski, MLA, Barrhead Morinville Westlock constituency

**SCHOOL ACT REVIEW**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF PEBMINA HILLS REGIONAL DIVISION NO. 7**  
**FEEDBACK BASED ON DISCUSSION PAPER FOR LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

October 14, 2009

**Foundational Themes**

- 1. All Alberta children have a superseding right of access to the ECS-12 public education system which is not dependent on where they reside.**
  - Concern over term 'superseding' – choice could impede rights of others
  - What is the impact in terms of cost, transportation ride times, and viability of schools?
  
- 2. Students should be able to access instruction at any time, any place, and at their own pace.**
  - General agreement but caution that adequate resources may need to be available to address increased access
  - There needs to be accountability for student learning
  
- 3. Student success is the primary goal of the education system and government has a responsibility to provide the structure and supports to maximize it.**
  - Agree
  
- 4. The connection of locally elected school authorities to their communities is an important element of our public education system. Government has a responsibility to support maximizing trustee and board competence, and to set provincial standards for the roles and responsibilities of boards.**
  - Except in gross negligent situations, the Minister should not have the ability to remove boards. Trustee competence needs to be assessed by the public, not the provincial government
  - Boards should be the sole appointee of their Superintendent. Superintendents are accountable to Boards. Boards are accountable to the Minister.
  
- 5. There must be balance between local autonomy and fiscal responsibility.**
  - Support