

# Chapter 3



## Leadership and Collaboration

The education of our students is fundamental to shaping a preferred provincial, national and global future. The education system must simultaneously prepare the citizens of tomorrow while equipping our students with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in a rapidly changing and more global society. To ensure that the internationalization of Alberta's education system is successful, the participation of all key players involved in international education initiatives is critical.

Successful internationalization rests on a foundation of mutual interest, dedication and support among all involved.

Nord 2003, p. 6

Internationalization of an education system requires strong collaborative efforts among the teaching community and a lasting commitment from leadership at the provincial and local school authority levels. This chapter examines the leadership at all levels and Alberta's collaborative approach to effective leadership.

### Provincial Leadership

As education in Canada is a provincial responsibility, the Government of Alberta plays a critical role in the education of Albertans. It mandates the direction of curriculum for learners, certification of teachers, and oversees education policies and procedures for school authorities.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the interconnectedness of today's society and the corresponding skills that students and the work force need to be successful on the international stage. As a commitment to international education, *Alberta's International Education Strategy* was developed and implemented in 2001.

## Alberta's International Education Strategy, 2001

The strategy calls on the Government of Alberta to work together with its stakeholders toward the internalization of the education system. The strategy provides overall direction to international education in the province.

The strategy can be fully viewed in Appendix A: Leadership. Future updates of the strategy will be located at <http://education.alberta.ca/students/internationaleducation/strategy.aspx>.

Key components of the strategy (2001) are to:

- promote the internationalization of education curriculum to support Alberta's school authorities in providing international services and in accessing international markets
- expand the range of international opportunities available to Albertans
- build collaboration at all levels in international education, including local, provincial, national and international.

For Alberta Education, implementation of *Alberta's International Education Strategy, 2001*, requires the cooperation of several branches within the department. Alberta Education also liaises with other departments within the Government of Alberta, school authorities, individual schools, non-governmental organizations, foreign government offices, other provinces and the federal government.



Alberta Education is actively involved in several initiatives to support the internationalization of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system. The following initiatives are described in further detail below.

- Managing the International Education Advisory Council
- Leading International Student Recruitment Marketing Missions
- Developing Study in Alberta Promotional Materials
- Establishing and Maintaining Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Foreign Countries
- Supporting International Study Tours for Teachers/Administrators
- Overseeing Student Exchange Programs in Collaboration with Partners
- Overseeing Educator Exchange Programs in Collaboration with Partners
- Facilitating Visiting Teacher Programs
- Providing Foreign Language Advisor Services
- Promoting International Education Week
- Promoting and Overseeing International School Partnerships
- Regulating Out-of-Province School Accreditation
- Linking with Curriculum
- Linking with Pan-Canadian Organizations and the Federal Government

### **Managing the International Education Advisory Council**

The International Education Advisory Council was created by the Deputy Minister of Alberta Education in 2007. The council is an advisory body that serves as a forum for school authority representatives and Alberta Education to address common areas of interest related to international education. The council meetings are chaired by the Director of the International Education Services Branch and take place on a regular basis. Refer to the Jurisdictional Leadership section on pages 43–44 for more information on the role of the council.

Steering committees associated with the council also guide specific initiatives identified by the council. In 2008, a Steering Committee was formed to oversee the development of this handbook. The Steering Committee is made up of council members from the following school authorities: Battle River Regional Division No. 31 (BRRD); Calgary Catholic School District No. 1 (CCSD); Christ the Redeemer Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 3 (CRCSR); Edmonton Catholic Separate School District No. 7 (ECS); Edmonton Public School District No. 7 (EPS); Grande Yellowhead Public School Division No. 77 (GYPSD); Horizon School Division No. 67 (HSD); Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39 (RDCRD); Red Deer Public School District No. 104 (RDPSD).



(Pictured above – left to right: Max Lindstrand (BRRD), Dave Driscoll (HSD), Carole Pelé (Alberta Education – Steering Committee Chair), Rob Porkka (RDPSD), Ann Calverley (EPS), Janet Small (CCSD), Emilie DeCorby (ECS), Hugh McPherson (RDCRD), Lisa Lozanski (Principal Author)

## Leading International Student Recruitment Marketing Missions

In 2007, Alberta Education, in collaboration with Advanced Education and Technology, organized the first-ever Study in Alberta International Student Recruitment Marketing Mission, which took place in Mexico and involved six school authorities and eight post-secondary institutions.

Given the success of the mission and the need for collaborative missions identified by the International Education Advisory Council, the Government of Alberta supported a number of subsequent missions.

- 1. Study in Alberta Mission to China**
  - April 10–20, 2008
  - 7 participating school authorities
- 2. CO-EX Fair – Korea**
  - October 4–5, 2008
  - 2 participating school authorities
- 3. Study in Alberta Mission to Mexico**
  - February 16–23, 2008
  - 9 participating school authorities
- 4. Canadian Education Centre (CEC) Fair – Macao, Hong Kong**
  - October 10–11, 2008
  - 2 participating school authorities
- 5. Canadian Education Expo (CEE) Fair – Beijing, China**
  - October 18–19, 2008
  - 5 participating school authorities
- 6. Study in Alberta Mission to Mexico**
  - February 14–20, 2009
  - 10 participating school authorities
- 7. Salão do Estudante Fair – Brazil**
  - March 7–19, 2009
  - 9 participating school authorities



**8. Study in Alberta Mission to Korea**

- May 3–10, 2009
- 7 participating school authorities

**9. Canadian Education Week Mission to Vietnam**

- October 23–31, 2009
- 7 participating school authorities

**10. Study in Canada – Japan**

- November 2–3, 2009
- 9 participating school authorities

**11. Study in Alberta Mission to Mexico**

- February 17–24, 2010
- 10 participating school authorities

**12. Study in Alberta Mission to China**

- March 10–24, 2010
- 13 participating school authorities
- 2 participating post-secondary institutions





In 2009, a second committee from the International Education Advisory Council was formed to provide advice on the international student recruitment missions. The Student Recruitment Committee meets on a regular basis to assist with the strategic planning of the Alberta Government-led international student recruitment marketing missions. The committee is made up of council members who are actively involved in international student recruitment.



Committee responsibilities are to:

- assist in developing and implementing the funding model/fee structure for marketing events
- assist with identifying marketing activities for the year
- report results of committee activities to council
- develop measures of success for marketing activities
- attend meetings, as needed (approximately two per year).



The following school authorities are represented on the Student Recruitment Committee:

Battle River Regional Division No. 31 (BRRD); Calgary School District No. 19 (CSD); Calgary Catholic School District No. 1 (CCSD); Christ the Redeemer Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 3 (CRCSR); Edmonton Catholic Separate School District No. 7 (ECS); Edmonton Public School District No. 7 (EPS); Golden Hills School Division No. 75 (GHSD); Grande Yellowhead Public School Division No. 77 (GYPSD); Horizon School Division No. 67 (HSD); Lethbridge School District No. 51 (LSD); Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39 (RDCRD); and Red Deer Public School District No. 104 (RDPSD).



Alberta Education continues to work with the Student Recruitment Committee, as well as Advanced Education and Technology in planning student recruitment missions abroad.

**MORE  
INFORMATION**

••• See Chapter 13: International Student Programs.

### **Developing Study in Alberta Promotional Materials**

Alberta Education developed numerous promotional materials for international student recruitment. The Study in Alberta materials provide key information for foreign students interested in studying in Alberta. Study in Alberta brochures and Study in Alberta fact sheets were developed in Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese, and are available on the Study in Alberta Web site.

### **Study in Alberta Web Site**

Alberta Education and Advanced Education and Technology developed a Study in Alberta Web site that highlights pertinent information for foreign students (senior high school and post-secondary) wishing to study in Alberta. The site contains general information on Alberta; information on primary, secondary and post-secondary education; list of institutions that accept fee-paying international students; list of program choices; the application process; visa requirements; and available resources. Visit <http://www.studyinalberta.ca> for more information.

### **Study in Alberta Catalogue of Institutions (K–12)**

The Catalogue of Institutions includes a brief description of the school authorities in Alberta involved in international student programs in Alberta, as well as a list of the programs offered. The catalogues were developed and printed in English and in the target foreign language. They are distributed to parents and students attending student fairs abroad. They are also available in the Alberta Government Trade Offices Abroad.

### **Study in Alberta DVD**

In 2008, a Study in Alberta video was developed to showcase education in Alberta. The video can be found in Appendix G: International Student Programs and also online at <http://www.studyinalberta.ca/media/56749/studyinalberta.wmv>.

**MORE  
INFORMATION**

- See Appendix G: International Student Programs for samples of the promotional materials developed by the International Education Services Branch.

## Establishing and Maintaining Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Foreign Countries

Alberta Education negotiates and maintains education-related international agreements with foreign government ministries of education. The purpose of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and other formal agreements between governments is to foster understanding and solidarity between peoples and countries and to contribute to the academic, cultural and professional development of students and educators. MOU, or other formal agreements, between Alberta Education and each of the following countries (Australia, China, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico Spain and Ukraine) exist to enable exchanges, information sharing and support for second language programming. Initiatives that have resulted from these agreements include international study tours for teachers/administrators; educator and student exchanges; the posting of special language and culture advisors to Alberta; the establishment of international Spanish academies; and visiting teacher programs. Some of these initiatives are described below.

### Supporting International Study Tours for Teachers/Administrators

Alberta has built relations with governments in other countries to support international activities. Study tours for teachers and administrators are often a result of agreements between Alberta and another country. Because of the collaborative nature of these initiatives, their goals/purpose depend on the interests or intended outcomes of the partnering host country.



Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73 visiting Lincoln, England on a study tour in 2009.

Alberta has enjoyed a strong relationship with China for 25 years, and has cultivated this relationship through its government office in Beijing. Alberta has the only special advisor on Chinese language and culture in Canada. As a result of Alberta Education's relationship with the Chinese government, specifically, the Office for Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), Alberta educators and administrators have had opportunities to participate in focused study tours to China since 2007.

Study tours provide educators with a “hands-on” experience to learn more about the history and culture of another country. Educators then bring their newfound understanding of the country's economic, political and social systems, and enhanced international knowledge, skills and awareness into the classroom to benefit their students. Study tours also provide education decision makers with the opportunity to build relations and share good practices with their international counterparts, and to learn first-hand about education issues abroad.



### Overseeing Student Exchange Programs in Collaboration with Partners

Through long-standing collaborative relationships with its foreign and Canadian partners, Alberta Education has been involved in the support of Alberta's International Education Exchange Program for Students for the past 30 years. This program immerses second language learners in their language of study. Students study in Germany, Japan, Mexico, Québec or Spain for approximately three months and host their German, Japanese, Mexican, Québécois or Spanish counterpart in Alberta for three months. Effective October 1, 2010, the Alberta Teachers'

Association has become a delivery partner with Alberta Education and is responsible for the day-to-day operations in the administration of Alberta's International Education Exchange Program for Students.



Another exchange program available to Alberta students is the Yamate Exchange Program. This program is designed to enhance cultural exchange and the

Japanese language capacity of Alberta students. The students may participate in a one-month long group exchange or study independently for a full year at the Yamate Gakuin School in Yokohama, Japan. No prior language proficiency is necessary.

Other opportunities for exchange, while not directly supported by the department, are encouraged through the continuation of Alberta student funding to school authorities. To ensure continued funding, schools complete a Reciprocal Student Exchange Approval Form with student and exchange program information and submit it to the school authority (the form is available in Appendix E: Student Exchange Programs). The school authority then approves the exchange and submits the form to Alberta Education for approval. This approval ensures that the Alberta student participating in the exchange continues to be eligible for funding.

MORE  
INFORMATION

•••• see Chapter 11: Student Exchange Programs.

### Overseeing Educator Exchange Programs in Collaboration with Partners

Alberta Education has been supporting teacher exchanges since 1979 and, in that time, hundreds of Alberta teachers have taught in classrooms all over the world.

Alberta Education oversees both long-term and short-term teacher exchanges with a number of countries. Long-term teacher exchanges are available with Australia, Denmark, Germany, Québec, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Teachers swap jobs and homes for a year. Teachers continue to be paid by their school authority for the duration of the exchange and return to their position after the year is over.

Short-term teacher/administrator exchanges, e.g., Denmark and Germany, may also be available. These usually occur during spring and summer holidays. Effective October 1, 2010, the Alberta Teachers' Association has become a delivery partner with Alberta Education and is responsible for the day-to-day operations in the administration of Alberta's International Education Exchange Program for Teachers.

“Life changing.”

“Absolute best thing I have ever done.”

Past exchange participants

MORE  
INFORMATION

•••• see Chapter 12: Educator Exchange Programs.

### Facilitating Visiting Teacher Programs

Alberta Education's relationships and agreements with foreign partners also enable visiting teacher programs. These programs allow teachers from China, Japan and Spain to teach in Alberta schools and help develop Chinese, Japanese or Spanish language programs. To date, the existing programs are facilitated through agreements with the Office of the Chinese Council International, the Hokkaido Board of Education, and the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science.

Alberta Education matches foreign teachers with school authorities that are interested in hosting a visiting teacher. The department also works with its foreign partner to provide an orientation to the visiting teacher, which usually includes:

- an overview of programs of study
- a review of authorized learning and teaching resources
- a discussion about teachers and teaching in Alberta
- a description of the role of parents in the classroom.

MORE  
INFORMATION

•••• see Chapter 16: Hosting International Visitors.

### Providing Foreign Language Advisor Services

Alberta Education negotiates and maintains agreements for the services of special advisors on language and culture. Memoranda of Understanding with Chinese, German, Japanese, Spanish and Ukrainian educational authorities are in place for three-year terms. These agreements outline the terms and responsibilities for the posting of a special advisor to Alberta. The language advisors provide program implementation supports and professional development opportunities to school authorities and teachers.

To contact the language advisors or inquire about specific supports they provide, contact Alberta Education's International Education Services Branch.

### Promoting International Education Week

Alberta Education supports the celebration of International Education Week, which usually occurs in the third week of November every year.

Some examples of past activities organized by the department are:

- International Film and Food Festival
- International Education Quiz posted on the Alberta Education Intranet site
- International Education Forum at a senior high school
- Lieutenant Governor Reception in Recognition of Exchange Teachers
- Think Global Art Contest – Poster challenge open to elementary, junior high and senior high school students across Alberta.

The department also supports school authorities in celebrating International Education Week through various means, including facilitating welcome letters to the international fee-paying students from the Minister of Education. The letter thanks students for choosing Alberta as a study destination and welcomes them to Alberta.

The schools involved in activities during International Education Week are also invited to post their activities on the Alberta Education Web site.



### Promoting and Overseeing International School Partnerships

Through its foreign relationships, Alberta Education helps schools establish official school partnerships. Alberta's International School Partnership Program (AISPP) has promoted the establishment of international school partnerships throughout the province by:

- helping Alberta schools locate international partner schools
- helping international schools locate Alberta partner schools
- recognizing international school partnerships publicly and showcasing outstanding partnership activities
- developing resources to assist schools in building meaningful partnerships.

Schools partnered through AISPP receive a Certificate of Recognition signed by the Minister of Education and a complimentary copy of *A Guide to International School Partnerships* (see Appendix D: International School Partnerships).



••• see Chapter 10: International School Partnerships.

### Regulating Out-of-Province School Accreditation

A number of overseas schools are interested in offering the Alberta curriculum and giving their students the opportunity to graduate with an Alberta high school credential. These schools may serve Canadian students who are temporarily out of the country or foreign students who wish to achieve an Alberta High School Diploma and potentially continue their studies at a Canadian post-secondary institution or obtain a credential that is recognized worldwide. Only the Alberta government may grant accreditation status to schools to teach the Alberta programs of study in a school outside the province of Alberta.

To date, Alberta Education has accredited four out-of-province schools. To achieve accreditation, all schools underwent an extensive application, review and inspection process and continue to work closely with the department.

- The International School of Macao located in Macau, China, was accredited in 2006 and has continuing accreditation status.
- The Christian Alliance P. C. Lau Memorial International School of Hong Kong located in Hong Kong, China, was accredited in September 2007 and has continuing accreditation status.
- The Canadian International School located in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, was accredited with preliminary status in 2009.
- The Mount Saint Agnes Academy in Hamilton, Bermuda, is accredited to begin preliminary status in September 2010.

To become accredited by Alberta Education, out-of-province schools must meet the accreditation standards outlined in the operational handbook for *Accreditation of Out-of-Province Schools*. The handbook also contains information on the application process and assessed fees. It is available online at [http://education.alberta.ca/media/1161937/abed\\_inted\\_oofprovaccred\\_man\\_201009\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://education.alberta.ca/media/1161937/abed_inted_oofprovaccred_man_201009_final_web.pdf).

A full description of these initiatives and further information on Alberta Education and international education can be found at <http://education.alberta.ca/students/internationaleducation.aspx>.

### **Linking with Curriculum**

Curriculum is a key component to internationalizing learning. Alberta Education develops curriculum for Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 students. The department works with stakeholders and partners to provide a responsive and relevant curriculum through legal documents called programs of study that are developed in both English and French.



### *Programs of Study*

Alberta is recognized nationally and internationally as one of the best education systems in the world. One of the many reasons is because it has a centralized, outcomes-based, high quality curriculum. Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum is outlined in provincial programs of study, which identify what students are expected to learn and do in all subjects and grades. Many outcomes within Alberta's various programs of study reinforce the goals of international education. The intent of these outcomes is to broaden the students' view of their world and to develop a deeper understanding of themselves and others as they participate in a global society.

Alberta has been recognized internationally as having one of the best performing school systems. In July 2009, the Minister of Education was invited to participate in a Ministerial International Roundtable in Singapore to share expertise and to explore and identify what makes education systems effective.

**MORE  
INFORMATION**

•••• see Chapter 7: Curriculum Links.

### *Language Programs*

Alberta Education believes in the importance of providing students with expanded opportunities to learn languages and believes in choice in language programming. Language programming provides students with opportunities to learn another language and about other cultures through the language while at the same time learning about themselves. As such, school authorities are encouraged and supported to make language programs available where possible.

Alberta Education supports the following language programming:

- alternative French (French Immersion) and bilingual programs for Chinese, German, Spanish and Ukrainian
- French as a second language and language and culture programming at a variety of entry points (e.g., K/1, 4, 7 or 10) and in a variety of languages (Chinese, Cree, French, German, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian).

To further support language development, Alberta Education, and Advanced Education and Technology, provide scholarships and bursaries to current and future language teachers who wish to develop, enhance or maintain their language skills.

**MORE  
INFORMATION**

•••• see Chapter 15: Language Programs.

## Linking with Pan-Canadian Organizations and the Federal Government

Alberta Education works at strengthening and enhancing international education linkages not only within the province, but also with key organizations and governments nationally and internationally.

On the international stage, Alberta Education actively collaborates with other governments on various education issues and initiatives. Also, as part of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), Alberta regularly participates in leading Canadian delegations abroad, and the province is Canada's education representative at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), where it has the privilege of chairing the Education Policy Committee.

Currently, Alberta represents Canada on the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and has the additional privilege to chair the Education Policy Committee of the OECD.

Alberta regularly leads Canadian delegations abroad as part of the Canadian Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC).

Protocols of Agreement exist between the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) for international education-related activities and representation.

The Federal-Provincial Consultative Committee on Education-Related International Activities (FPCCERIA) was established under such an agreement. It exists to assist the Chair of CMEC and the Minister of DFAIT in ensuring that jurisdictional responsibilities are respected and that education in Canada is well represented internationally. The work of FPCCERIA helps to advance pan-Canadian collaboration in international education. Both Alberta Education, and Advanced Education and Technology, are represented on the FPCCERIA.

In 2007, DFAIT and CMEC collaborated to launch a marketing campaign promoting Canada as a study destination and creating a brand for Canadian education abroad. Since then, the FPCCERIA has worked to negotiate and develop a brand design, platform and slogan, as well as plans for usage, governance and coordination, and roll-out of the completed brand. In September

Alberta's international reputation for high-quality education leads to receiving education officials from around the world who wish to share best practices or work collaboratively on education initiatives or issues. Areas of focus have included special education, student assessment and technology.

2009, the Education Brand for Canada was officially launched. For more information on the brand, visit the new Education Brand for Canada: DFAIT/CMEC Collaborative Arrangement at <http://www.slideshare.net/maymayli/canadas-competitive-challenge-realized-international-promotion-of-education-presentation>.

For more information on using the Education Brand for Canada, contact Alberta Education's International Education Services Branch.

Another important linkage for the province with DFAIT is to Canada's diplomatic and consular offices in approximately 150 foreign countries. The offices provide a variety of services, including providing consular support to Canadians abroad, promoting education in Canada, and organizing student recruitment fairs.

See Chapter 18: Support Organizations and What They Offer for a list of services supplied by DFAIT.

Most Government of Alberta International Trade Offices are co-located within Canadian Embassies and High Commissions across the world.

## Government of Alberta International Trade Offices

An important support for international education in the province is the Government of Alberta International Trade Offices. Alberta has nine trade offices—China, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States. For information and locations on the international trade offices, visit the Web site at <http://www.international.alberta.ca/933.cfm>.

Each of Alberta's nine international offices is responsible for promoting trade with Alberta and attracting foreign investment to the province and other interests, such as education and culture, in their respective geographic region. While all offices are responsible for these activities, each office's mandate has been tailored to meet Alberta's priorities within the region. For example, the trade office in China identified a growing demand for more focused representation in the field of education.

## Education Representation in China and Mexico

Alberta's education system is currently represented internationally at two international offices—Beijing, China and Guadalajara, Mexico. Alberta Education manages and funds a local education officer at Alberta's Beijing Office. Advanced Education and Technology manages and funds a similar program in Mexico through the Alberta Education Centre and its contracted staff in Guadalajara.

Both offices continue to have, as their mandate, the representation of Alberta's entire education system, to serve both the K–12 and the post-secondary sectors. Since 2005, dedicated education support in the Alberta China Office, as well as the Alberta Mexico Office has solidified and expanded Alberta's education relationships with China and Mexico.



“... high school graduates will: Sell to the world; buy from the world; work for international companies; manage employees from other cultures and countries; collaborate with people all over the world in joint ventures; compete with people on the other side of the world for jobs and markets; and tackle global problems, such as AIDS, avian flu, pollution, and disaster recovery ... We need to open global gateways and inspire students to explore beyond their national borders.”

Stewart 2007, pp. 8–14

## Jurisdictional Leadership

Through the *School Act*, locally elected school authority boards in Alberta are primarily responsible for delivering education programs to Alberta students. School authorities serve as the administrative body of schools in their communities, establishing policies and procedures to guide the management of their programs and activities.

School authorities play an influential role in carrying out the goals and outcomes of internationalizing education outlined by the provincial government. They are the driving force behind school participation in international education initiatives and in providing schools with guidelines, approvals and risk management plans to ensure successful international education programs. Some Alberta school authorities have established departments dedicated to international education.

These departments are usually responsible for:

- recruiting and admitting international students
- arranging homestays for international students
- ensuring proper coding is carried out for exchange and international students (see example on sidebar)
- promoting and approving international school partnerships
- inspiring new international education initiatives for students and educators.

In recognizing the influential role that school authorities play in international education initiatives, school authority representatives involved in international education activities are members of the International Education Advisory Council. The role of the council is to provide advice to Alberta Education and to foster, encourage and enhance partnerships within the education community to support the further development, refinement and promotion of the Alberta International Education Strategy.

The full list of members, as well as the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Council, are available in Appendix A: Leadership.

**Code 416**

Visiting Student: Student from outside Alberta receiving instruction in person or online (non-funded).

**Code 413**

Exchange Student: To the school from a school outside of Canada.

(See Appendix G: International Student Programs for the letter outlining the codes, as well as *Access and Funding for International Students in Alberta: Frequently Asked Questions.*)



International Education Advisory Council (pictured from left to right: Ian Lowe (LSD), Max Lindstrand (BRRD), Dave Driscoll (HSD), Rob Porkka (RDPSD), Sheila McLeod (CSD), Ann Calverley (EPS), Janet Small (CCSD), Emilie DeCorby (ECS), Hugh McPherson (RDCRD), Scott Howes (MHSD), Waldemar Riemer, Alberta Education International Education Advisory Council Chair – picture taken February 2010.

MORE  
INFORMATION

•••• see Chapter 4: An Internationalization Strategy.



## School Leadership

Alberta schools aim to provide safe and caring environments that promote learning. They teach Alberta curriculum and may offer optional programs to meet the unique needs of their students and communities. Teachers, principals and school staff all strive to assist students in developing higher level thinking, civic responsibility and healthy attitudes.

Schools generally serve as the primary source of international education activities for interested students, educators, parents and the community and can directly influence their participation. Schools also serve as the community's voice on international education initiatives and can suggest ideas for new programs or request changes to existing ones.

Schools can support international education through:

- second language teachers, who can inspire students to consider an exchange program to develop and/or enhance their linguistic and cross-cultural abilities
- counsellors, who provide international students and exchange students with strategies on settling into Alberta life
- exchange educators, who can inspire Alberta educators to travel and work abroad to learn new teaching practices and perspectives that can be implemented into their classroom and school
- school twinnings, that allow students to interact with others from around the world thereby establishing mutual understanding and respect of fellow global citizens.

## Parental and Community Engagement

Parents play an important role in the education of their children and can help them excel in learning. Parents make up the majority of members in school councils, which have an active voice in the education of children in Alberta. Parental support for international education may include, but is not limited to:

- encouraging their children to participate in international education initiatives
- funding their child's participation in exchange programs or study tours
- participating as chaperones on school trips overseas
- welcoming and hosting international students into their homes.

Community engagement is also essential in the success of students. Community members play an active role in education by participating in school councils and electing local school authority boards that are held accountable to them. Communities can support and extend international education programming by:

- holding local fairs and festivals such as Heritage Days that celebrate cultures and countries of the world
- initiating development projects that allow students to give back to their local and global community
- welcoming international students and exchange teachers
- establishing museums for students to learn about local and world history.

## Student Leadership

Students are encouraged to be involved in international education activities, such as school clubs and organizations that promote internationalization and cultural diversity. Students impact internationalization through their participation in the various international education initiatives outlined in Chapter 1: An Introduction to International Education. They can also play an influential role by:

- encouraging the participation of fellow students, their school, parents and their community in international education projects and initiatives
- inspiring new projects and programs aimed to develop global citizenship
- participating in student councils or associations that can lobby for policy and procedure changes in international education programs
- being part of the Speak Out – Student Engagement Committee and/or participating in the annual Speak Out Conference.

Alberta Education encourages students to voice their opinion on their education, international education included. Since 2008, the implementation of the Alberta Student Engagement Initiative has created opportunities for Alberta youth to provide advice to the ministry on the education system. Further information on this initiative can be found at <http://www.speakout.alberta.ca>.

### You may find the following sections in this handbook helpful:

- Chapter 1: An Introduction to International Education
- Chapter 7: Curriculum Links
- Chapter 10: International School Partnerships
- Chapter 11: Student Exchange Programs
- Chapter 12: Educator Exchange Programs
- Chapter 13: International Student Programs
- Chapter 15: Language Programs
- Appendix A: Leadership
  - *Alberta's International Education Strategy, July 2001*
  - International Education Advisory Council Members
  - Alberta International Education Advisory Council Terms of Reference
- Appendix D: International School Partnerships
  - *A Guide to International School Partnerships*
- Appendix G: International Student Programs
  - Cover Letter for *Access and Funding for International Students in Alberta: Frequently Asked Questions*
  - *Access and Funding for International Students in Alberta: Frequently Asked Questions*
  - Study in Alberta DVD
  - Study in Alberta Brochure
  - Study in Alberta Catalogue of Institutions (K–12)
  - Study in Alberta Fact Sheet