Enclosure No. 9

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA®

Oct. 29, 2026

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides
Minister of Education and Childcare
228 Legislative Building
10800-97 Ave.
Edmonton, AB. T5K 2B6

Dear Honourable Minister Nicolaides:

Re: Public School Education Following the Referendum: Understanding the Implications and Planning for the Future

The recent referendum provides an opportunity to reflect on Alberta's future, the priorities that will guide our province in the years ahead, and how we can work together to support the people and communities we serve. For the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA), this includes understanding the implications of the referendum results for public school education and considering how we can work collaboratively to support students and their communities.

Several referendum questions have potential implications for public school education, including questions relating to eligibility for provincially funded education, the possibility of fees for some families, and the relationship between provincial priorities and federal funding. As these questions were non-binding, we recognize that the results do not, in themselves, establish what actions the government will take. We would welcome a better understanding of how the government intends to consider the results, determine next steps and engage with those who may be affected.

Public school education is an important part of Alberta's future. Locally elected school boards, educators and school staff work every day to meet the needs of students in communities across the province. School boards also bring valuable local knowledge and experience to discussions about enrolment, student needs, staffing, resources and the planning required to support successful learning environments.

As the government considers its response to the referendum, we see an opportunity to begin a constructive conversation about the questions ahead, the implications for public school education and how PSBAA and its member boards can support the government's work. Our intention is to better understand the government's thinking, share perspectives and identify opportunities to work together in the best interests of students.

To help guide this conversation, we have identified the following questions on which we would appreciate your perspective.

Questions to guide our discussion:

1. Given the non-binding nature of the referendum questions, how does the government intend to proceed in considering the results and determining whether further action is warranted?
2. What consultation, review or other steps does the government anticipate before making decisions on matters that may affect public school education?
3. How and when will PSBAA and locally elected school boards have opportunities to contribute their perspectives and help inform the government's consideration of these questions?
4. What will the logistics look like for identifying students that are found ineligible to attend a public school based upon the potential changes? What will the parameters be for public school divisions receiving information about these students?
5. What level of support can public school boards expect from the provincial government in implementing action that comes from the referendum?

These questions are intended to provide a starting point for discussion, rather than to prescribe a particular course of action. We recognize the provincial government's responsibility to consider the referendum results and determine its approach. At the same time, we believe that engaging with school boards will help ensure the practical implications for students, families and communities are understood as that work proceeds.

The PSBAA is committed to being a constructive partner in this process. Through our member boards, we can bring forward local perspectives, share experiences from across Alberta, help identify questions that require further consideration, and contribute to discussions about practical approaches and implementation. We would welcome the opportunity to understand where this experience could be most helpful to the government and how we can support its work while keeping students' best interests at the centre.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these questions, hear your perspective on the government's intended process and explore how we can work together to plan for the future. An initial conversation would allow us to develop a shared understanding of the issues, identify opportunities for collaboration and consider an appropriate process for moving forward.

Our shared focus is the success of Alberta's students and the future of the communities in which they live and learn. We believe that an open and collaborative relationship between the Ministry and locally elected school boards can make an important contribution to that goal. We look forward to continuing our work with you and would welcome the opportunity to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA®

Sincerely,

L. Stewart

Dr. Lorraine Stewart
President, Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

cc: Lora Pillipow, Deputy Minister of Education and Childcare
James Johnson, Chief of Staff, Minister of Education and Childcare
Board of Directors, PSBAA
Member Boards, PSBAA
Troy Tait, Chief Executive Officer, PSBAA