



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6

September 15, 2014

Mr. Gordon Dirks
Minister of Education
Legislature Building
Room 320
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 0B7

Dear Mr. Dirks

It is my privilege to have the opportunity to serve the people of Alberta with you. Together we will build an accountable, better governed and more responsible government. This letter outlines how your Ministry can deliver on my priorities, restoring the bond of trust between Albertans and their government.

Our government's conduct will be in accordance with the highest standards of professionalism, deportment and ethical behaviour, in which all Albertans can be proud. We will demonstrate the highest degree of integrity, responsibility and accountability to our colleagues, the public service, and above all, to the Alberta people who have entrusted us with this tremendous responsibility. As a Minister of my government you will be expected to adhere to the letter and spirit of the new code of ethics of our government.

Ours will be a government that listens to its people and communicates effectively, efficiently and competently in the delivery of the following five clear priorities:

- A focused commitment to sound, conservative fiscal principles;
- Ending entitlements and restoring the public trust;
- Maximizing the value of our natural resources and respecting property rights;
- Establishing our province as an environmental leader; and
- Increasing Albertans' quality of life by becoming the leader in the areas of health care, education and skills training.

In light of these priorities, there are specific areas that require your dedicated effort and focus as Minister of Education:

- Develop a strategy for higher student achievement in a world class education system that includes: coherent grading acceptable to Albertans, the basics (reading, writing, arithmetic), and incorporates 21st century competencies such as innovation, communication and critical thinking that are applied in all subjects;
- Revisit curriculum changes to ensure that the Alberta school curriculum includes coherent grading acceptable to Albertans, the basics (reading, writing, arithmetic) and incorporates the 21st century competencies;
- Implement a plan for long-term, stable and predictable funding;
- Move quickly with Alberta Infrastructure to address Alberta's school shortage;
- Work with communities to ensure infrastructure, schools, classrooms and resources anticipate, plan for and meet student needs;
- Develop a plan to improve Albertan's quality of life by becoming innovators in education, having regard to the basics; and
- Promote safe, dignified and respectful education environments.

I expect the priorities of your Ministry to align with the priorities of our government.

I am a great believer in the vast potential of our province. The opportunity that we have in the next few years will shape this province for the decades to come. I am confident that we can meet the challenges ahead and leave a positive legacy for Alberta.

Sincerely,



Jim Prentice

Premier of Alberta