



**INSPIRING EDUCATION:
A DIALOGUE WITH ALBERTANS
STEERING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. CONTEXT

Inspiring Education: A Dialogue with Albertans will provoke ongoing public discussion about the value of education as a foundation for the future civic and economic success of the province. It will develop public understanding and expectations about the nature and necessity of education in fulfilling the potential of every Albertan.

Based on a well-developed understanding of the value of education, the project will focus public discussion on how Alberta's education system can best meet future students' needs, including how it is governed, administered and provides services.

The end results of these public discussions will be heightened public appreciation of the value of education, a long-term vision for education in Alberta, a policy framework to guide the operation of Alberta's education system and, potentially, revisions to the *School Act*.

Key starting points for the dialogue include:

- the foundational values of opportunity, fairness, citizenship, choice and diversity; and
- a clear definition of 21st century roles of government.

The dialogue is intended to:

- identify the issues and challenges confronting Alberta students;
- engage the public in a generative dialogue focused on potential responses to these issues and challenges;
- define potential and reciprocal roles, responsibilities, and relationships for each partner in governance; and
- determine the feasibility of, and opportunities for, a variety of policy/governance options.

The dialogue will be extensive, with input from all facets of Alberta's society, including:

- the public at large;
- community and not-for-profit/volunteer organizations;
- stakeholders, including educational organizations, as well as Aboriginal and Francophone organizations;
- parents and legal guardians;

- students and youth, including students representing diverse populations (e.g., First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, students with special needs, immigrant students, students who have not completed high school, etc.) and youth who have entered post-secondary studies or the world of work;
- perspectives from post-secondary institutions; and
- business and industry.

A variety of processes will be used to involve the public, including theme-based, moderated discussions with stakeholders; online dialogues; a Minister’s summit; and other mechanisms designed to reach a wide range of Albertans.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to guide and act as ambassadors for the project.

In particular, the Steering Committee will work with the Minister and ministry staff to:

- finalize the mandate;
- approve process and discussion documents;
- guide the progress of the project;
- participate in media and social events;
- be the public authors of the broad outlines of a policy framework resulting from the dialogue, and
- throughout the term, liaise with the Working Committee regarding the project.

3. ACCOUNTABILITY

The Steering Committee will report to the Minister of Education.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education and three other government MLAs will help guide the process. Additional members will provide a broad range of perspectives.

Co-Chairs	Jeff Johnson, MLA, Athabasca-Redwater Brent McDonough (Edmonton-Centre)
MLAs	Manmeet Singh Bhullar, MLA, Calgary-Montrose, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Janice Sarich, MLA, Edmonton-Decore, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education Art Johnston, MLA, Calgary-Hays, Chair, Community Services CPC
Public Members	Mark Anielski (Edmonton-Strathcona)
	Lance Carlson (Calgary-Mountain View)
	Sharon Carry (Calgary-Varsity)
	Sharon Friesen (Calgary-Lougheed)
	Jim Gibbons (Rocky Mountain House)
	Mary Hofstetter (Banff-Cochrane)
	Cheryl Knight (Calgary-Hays)

	Wilton Littlechild (Drayton Valley-Calmar)
	Deborah Lloyd (Medicine Hat)
	John Masters (Calgary-Glenmore)
	Andy Neigel (Athabasca-Redwater)
	Dr. Jane O'Dea (Lethbridge-West)
	Brant Parker (Banff-Cochrane)
	Anne-Marie Pham (Calgary, North West)
	Zuhy Sayeed (Vermilion-Lloydminster)
	Laurie Thompson (Lac La Biche-St. Paul)
	John Tiemstra (Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock)

5. LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP

Fall 2008 to April 30, 2010.

6. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

To be determined.

7. REMUNERATION

MLA remuneration will be in accordance with the MLA Remuneration Order (O.C. 240/2008 – May 28, 2008).

Member remuneration will be in accordance with Appendix 2, Schedule 1, Part A, of the Committee Remuneration Order (O.C. 466/2007 – October 10, 2007).

Reimbursement of reasonable travel and subsistence expenses will be made in accordance with the *Subsistence and Travel Allowance Regulation* for employees in the Public Service of Alberta.