



ALBERTA
EDUCATION

Office of the Minister

NOV 23 2007

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Mr. Frank Bruseker
President
Alberta Teachers' Association
Barnett House
11010 - 142 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5N 2R1

Dear Mr. Bruseker:

Last week's announcement that the provincial government and the Alberta Teachers' Association have reached a tentative Memorandum of Agreement regarding the province assuming the teachers' portion of the pre-1992 pension liability is a significant milestone. The agreement offers a lasting solution to the pension liability issue that balances the interests of teachers, students, school boards and taxpayers. While there is a significant cost to government to assume the entire pre-1992 liability, the entire education system will benefit greatly from the stability offered by five years of labour peace.

With this agreement in principle, it is the government's desire to have a more collaborative relationship with the Association that is focused on improving the learning environment for Alberta's students. That is why the recent agreement includes a specific commitment to establish a consultation committee consisting of representatives from the government and the Association. This committee will allow both of our respective organizations to move forward and discuss those issues that are important to ensuring the best possible education system.

As part of our shared desire to ensure high professional standards for teacher practice, it will be my intention to seek government approval for the Practice Review Bylaw that will facilitate the transfer of responsibility for addressing complaints regarding teaching practice of teachers from Alberta Education to the Association. With this authority, the Association would be accountable for ensuring the professional conduct of its members in much the same way other professional organizations currently undertake this responsibility.

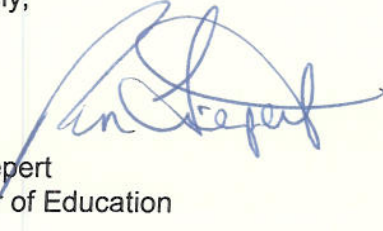
I also want to convey to you that government has no intention of establishing a Council of Education Executives as was earlier recommended in Alberta's Commission on Learning's Report of 2003. Nor does government have any intention of removing principals from the Association. By providing these assurances, our government is seeking to further establish the stability all parties desire as we look forward to the educational challenges of the next five years.

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There is much work that remains to be done to implement the Memorandum of Agreement, but I remain confident that by working together, we will be able to successfully move forward and implement an agreement that will provide benefits to our education system for decades to come.

Sincerely,



Ron Liepert
Minister of Education

cc: Honourable Ed Stelmach
Premier

All Government M.L.A.s

Alberta School Boards Association