

Backgrounder

Defining priorities for the future of education in Alberta

Overview

Part of the Stand for Education campaign is a public engagement process that has been designed to develop a bold and hopeful vision for the future of public education in Alberta. This is to be achieved through a series of public roundtable discussions between November 2022 and February 2023.

Anyone can download the facilitator's guide and PowerPoint presentation to host their own discussions and then report back to the Alberta Teachers' Association (the Association). In turn, the Association will host four (4) large in-person public roundtable discussions across the province and three (3) virtual sessions to hear from teachers, parents and other supporters of public education as they respond to the guiding question of the roundtable discussions.

Purpose

The purpose of the roundtable discussions is to advance and promote a hopeful vision for the public education system into Alberta's future. This conversation will also be used as an opportunity to unearth the diversity of students' academic, social and emotional challenges and needs in our public schools, and pathways of support moving forward.

Guiding Question

The overall outcome of the roundtable discussions should be to generate new ideas, approaches and proposals for meaningful solutions based on the following guiding question:

What are your hopes for Alberta's children and our public schools so that they can thrive now and into the future?

All Albertans have an opportunity to submit a response to this question at <https://standforeducation.ca>.

Audience

Potential roundtable participants

- K-12 Teachers and School Leaders
- Central Office Teachers
- System Leaders
- Parents/Guardians/Grandparents
- Retired Teachers
- School Board Members
- School Council Members
- Indigenous Communities
- Francophone Communities
- Town/City Council Members
- Business Community Members
- Postsecondary Students and Faculty
- Other Concerned Citizens Who Support Public Education

Communications

The roundtable activities and highlights of what we are hearing in the public dialogues will be communicated across multiple channels during the implementation period of November 2022 to February 2023, leading up to the provincial election.

Strategic Intentions

The series of in-person/virtual roundtables is designed to align with the Association's Strategic Framework:

- Advance and promote the cause of public education in Alberta in a rapidly changing society
- Continually advance a vibrant and trusted teaching profession in Alberta through public dialogue
- Deepen and expand public and partner commitment through Alberta roundtables focused on maintaining a strong and resilient public education system
- Understand the nature of learning and student needs in a postpandemic period to enhance professional practice and school district and public policy
- Inform Association programs that will be responsive to changing learning conditions in a postpandemic period and open to a more complex society
- Present a hopeful vision for public education generated by the public roundtable discussions in advance of the 2023 provincial election

Public roundtable agenda timing

60 MINUTES

1. Welcome/Land Acknowledgement/Introductions (5 minute - brief overview)
2. Table Facilitation Orientation (5 minutes)
3. Individual Brainstorming (5 to 10 minutes)
4. Organizing the Ideas (20 minutes)
5. Considering the Big Ideas/Columns (10 minutes)
6. Reflecting on the Discussion (10 Minutes)
7. Closing and Departure

Contact

Please contact Dr Phil McRae at philip.mcrae@ata.ab.ca and/or Dr Lisa Everitt at lisa.everitt@ata.ab.ca for questions and/or concerns regarding the Facilitator's Guide or PowerPoint Slide Deck.

STAND FOR EDUCATION



The Alberta
Teachers' Association

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COMM-292-55c-1 2022 11