

# Memorandum of Understanding

THIS MEMORANDUM MADE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

AND

THE ALBERTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Whereas the Government of Alberta (the Government) through the Minister of Education has the legislated responsibility to authorize and support the implementation of Programs of Study in the Province of Alberta;

and Whereas the Programs of Study allow the teacher to exercise their professional judgement in fulfilling their duties found under Section 18(1) of the *School Act* related to providing instruction, encouraging and fostering learning, and evaluating students;

and Whereas the Government wishes to partner with the teaching profession through the Alberta Teachers' Association (the Association) on the development and implementation of Programs of Study;

and Whereas the Association wishes to partner with the Government on the development and implementation of Programs of Study;

and Whereas for the purposes of this MOU, partnership means a formal relationship based on mutually agreed goals pursued through a shared understanding and mutual respect;

and Whereas both the Association and the Government seek to collaborate with one another on developing and implementing the new provincial Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) Programs of Study (Arts Education, Français, French Language Arts, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Sciences, Social Studies, and Wellness Education), as well as developing resources to support implementation;

and Whereas the development and implementation of Programs of Study is an iterative process that reflects the highly relational nature of learning outcomes in provincial curriculum with teaching and learning;

and Whereas Programs of Study set out what students are to know and be able to do in each subject and grade, the teacher has the professional responsibility and flexibility to determine the instructional approach, or how the provincial curriculum is brought to life in the classroom;

and Whereas, *The Guiding Framework for the Design and Development of Future Kindergarten to Grade 12 Provincial Curriculum (Programs of Study) (2016)* will set the direction, principles and standards, architecture and design for the development of all K-12 Programs of Study, and supporting implementation; and the timelines and processes approved by Government for development of provincial Programs of Study;

and Whereas this MOU is an expression of intent and does not create any legal obligations between the Association and the Government.

## THEREFORE THE GOVERNMENT AND ASSOCIATION HAVE THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

1. The Association and the Government will co-lead in the development and implementation of the new Programs of Study.
2. A management committee, with representatives from the Government and the Association, will be established to provide strategic oversight and expertise for the development of the Program of Studies and implementation, and manage issues as required.
3. Programs of Study will be focused specifically on subject learner outcomes that reinforce literacy, numeracy and competencies. Competency indicators, and/or literacy and numeracy progressions are provided as resources to support student learning.
4. The Government and the Association will establish structures and processes to involve Alberta teachers in the development of the Programs of Study, in accordance with the design principles in the approved *Guiding Framework* and approved timelines and processes for development of Programs of Study.
5. The parties will actively consider the role and structure of student assessment as they pertain to student learning outcomes.
6. Arrangements will be made regarding communication, information sharing and engagement strategies. Both parties agree to promote the products developed through this process.
7. Either the Government or the Association may withdraw from this MOU by providing the other party with 30 days written notice of termination.
8. The addresses for notice under this MOU shall be:  

<b>For the Government of Alberta</b> Alberta Education 7th Floor, Commerce Place 10155 - 102 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5J 4L5 Fax: 780-427-7733	<b>For the Alberta Teachers' Association</b> Alberta Teachers' Association 11010 - 142 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5N 2R4 Fax: 780-455-6481
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9. This MOU shall be effective upon execution by both parties and remain in effect until December 31, 2022, unless a party withdraws earlier.
10. This MOU may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the Government and the Association in writing.

The parties make this MOU as evidenced by the signatures below.

Government of Alberta

Curtis Clark, PhD  
Deputy Minister  
Alberta Education

September 30, 2016  
Date

The Alberta Teachers' Association

Gordon R. Thomas, PhD  
Executive Secretary  
Alberta Teachers' Association

September 30, 2016  
Date