



September 27, 2019

The Honourable Adrianna LaGrange

Minister of Education
Office of the Minister
228 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton AB T5K 2B6

Re: The lack of active teacher representation on the curriculum review panel and the resulting delay in implementing the new K-4 curriculum

Delivered by e-mail

Dear Minister LaGrange:

ARTA (Alberta Retired Teachers' Association) is an organization of over 13,500 retired teachers whose lifetime careers were dedicated to the best possible education for Alberta students. That dedication, passion and concern continues in our retirement years. At a recent ARTA Board of Directors meeting, it was agreed that our concerns for the current Alberta students need to be shared with you and your department.

Retired teachers were heartened and impressed by the Minister's comments at the 2019 ARA (Annual Representative Assembly) of Alberta teachers when you declared your dedication to Alberta students and acknowledged teaching as a noble profession.

However, concerns surfaced when the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Alberta Teachers' Association was cancelled. Retired teachers are wondering why the ATA, the body of Alberta teachers with their day-to-day hands-on experiences and expertise, be removed from that process? Who would be better equipped to review a curriculum than the folks who are currently devoting their expertise, time and energy to those most important to them - their students?

While the credentials of those on the panel for curriculum review appears very impressive, the concern is that those individuals are not currently in the classroom, and in some cases, never have been. How familiar could they be with the real world of what is best for Alberta students? While they may be bringing a broader view of education, at the very least, might it not be more productive by having the combination include active Alberta teachers?

Our second concern is the delay in the implementation of the K-4 curriculum. The most recent elementary curriculum was implemented in 2007 with Social Studies in 2005, Health in 2002, English Language Arts and Physical Education in 2000, Science in 1996 and the Fine Arts in 1989 and 1985. This panel will delay the process for at least another year. The current curriculum is long past its due date.

The common concern for all Albertans (teachers, retired teachers, politicians, parents, grandparents and all other Albertans) is and always should be, the best possible education for Alberta students. Teachers are on “the front lines” and should have a strong voice in this process with their insight.

May we all work together to ensure that the best possible education for Alberta students happen sooner rather than later.

Sincerely yours,



Marilyn Bossert, President
Alberta Retired Teachers Association

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