

**DATE:** September 6, 2016

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Role of Edmonton Public Schools re Development of New Provincial Curriculum (Response to Request for Information #172)

**ORIGINATOR:** Dr. Sandra Stoddard, Executive Director, Governance, Strategic Services and Support for Schools

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Janice Aubry

**REFERENCE:** [Alberta Education – Curriculum Design and Process](#)

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### ISSUE

Information was requested at the June 21, 2016, by Trustee Orville Chubb that Administration report what role the District will have in the development of new provincial curriculum.

### BACKGROUND

On July 5, 2016, the Superintendent of Schools sent a letter to Dr. Curtis Clarke, Deputy Minister, Education, requesting information regarding Alberta Education's curriculum development engagement strategy (Attachment I). On August 12, 2016, the Superintendent of Schools received a response from the Deputy Minister of Education (Attachment II).

### CURRENT SITUATION

New curriculum will be developed for Kindergarten to Grade 4 by late 2018, followed by Grades 5 to 8 by late 2019. High school curriculum will be developed in phases from 2020 to 2022. These dates are referring to the development phase, not implementation. Dates for implementation have yet to be determined.

### KEY POINTS

- The Ministry of Education's overall engagement strategy will include an online survey for all Albertans, as well as face-to-face meetings with up to 1,800 education partners across the province.
- Information gathered through the stakeholder consultations, along with the results of research reviews and curriculum analysis, will be used by Expert Working Groups to make informed decisions about the development of new curriculum.
- These Expert Working Groups will include educators nominated by school authorities and the Alberta Teacher's Association; educators and knowledge keepers in First Nations, Métis and Inuit programs; and post-secondary subject specialist.

### ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I July 5, 2016 – Letter to the Deputy Minister of Education  
ATTACHMENT II August 12, 2016 – Response from the Deputy Minister of Education

SS: sj



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July 5, 2016

Dr. Curtis Clarke  
 Deputy Minister  
 Office of the Deputy Minister, Education  
 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Commerce Place  
 10155 – 102 Street  
 Edmonton, AB T5J 4L5

Dear Dr. Clarke:

On Tuesday, June 21 2016, an Edmonton Public School Board Trustee, Orville Chubb, formally requested that our administration report on the role the District and staff will have in the development of the new education curriculum. This request was made at an Edmonton Public Schools public board meeting and requires a written information report, in response, in the early fall of 2016.

I am writing to request any information that you may be able to provide to assist our administration in preparing a response. I understand that over \$20 million dollars over six fiscal years is currently planned for Alberta Education's curriculum development engagement strategy. I also understand that all educational authorities have the opportunity to participate. I anticipate that further information may be available that will assist us in providing a response regarding our specific role.

Edmonton Public Schools strongly supports Alberta Education's efforts to develop new curriculum that will have a common design, will be student-centred and will contain the fundamentals of literacy, numeracy and competencies. As a key prototyping partner district, Edmonton Public Schools is eager and ready to engage with and support the Province of Alberta throughout this new development and implementation to ensure that Outcome One of the Education Business Plan 2016-19, *Alberta's students are successful*, is achieved.

Thank you for considering this request for further information. I look forward to involving our District in this important work in the very near future.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR', enclosed within a large, loopy oval.

Darrel Robertson,  
 Superintendent of Schools

DR:ja





RECEIVED  
AUG 12 2016  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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10155 - 102 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L5  
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Mr. Darrel Robertson  
Superintendent of Schools  
Edmonton Public Schools  
Centre for Education  
One Kingsway Avenue  
Edmonton AB T5H 4G9

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Thank you for your July 5, 2016 letter regarding the role Edmonton Public Schools will play in the development of new provincial curriculum.

First, I want to acknowledge the work Edmonton Public Schools completed during curriculum development prototyping. Prototyping confirmed the need for a common design that explicitly establishes the relationships between literacy and numeracy, cross-curricular competencies and subject-specific learning outcomes. It showed the need for more focused learning outcomes and the importance of the inclusion of diverse Francophone and First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives in provincial curriculum. Prototyping partners reiterated the importance of continued collaboration and transparency during the curriculum development process, and this has been built into our engagement strategy.

Government is committed to ensuring all Alberta students are provided with an education that enriches their lives and prepares them for future careers in a diversified economy. My department's new approach to developing provincial curriculum will span six years and see work done simultaneously on six subject areas: Arts, Language Arts (English, French, Français), Mathematics, Social Studies, Sciences and Wellness. This will allow us to build better connections across subjects, and include First Nations, Métis and Inuit and Francophone content in curriculum.

New curriculum will be developed for Kindergarten to Grade 4 by late 2018, followed by Grades 5 to 8 by late 2019. High school curriculum will be developed in phases from 2020 to 2022. Please note this is referring to development only, not implementation. Dates for implementation have yet to be determined.

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The end result will be provincial curriculum that focuses on literacy, numeracy and competencies, and has a common design that is student-centred and consistent across all grades. This will make it easier for teachers to plan across subjects, improving the overall learning experience for students and reducing teachers' planning time.

Alberta Education is pleased to have the support of its education partners, including the Alberta Teachers' Association, as we undertake this important work. Teachers are critical to the development and implementation of curriculum, and our government values their hard work and dedication. This dynamic partnership is one of many ways we are working to ensure our future curriculum provides equitable, inclusive and accessible learning opportunities for all Alberta students.

This fall, Albertans will be invited to provide feedback as part of the curriculum development process. This ministry's overall engagement strategy will include an online survey so Albertans can have their say, as well as face-to-face meetings with up to 1,800 education partners across the province. Education will use this input, along with reviews of research and analysis of existing curriculum, to inform the development of new curriculum.

The information gathered through the stakeholder consultations, along with the results of the research reviews and curriculum analysis, will be used by Expert Working Groups to make informed decisions about the development of new curriculum. These Expert Working Groups will include educators nominated by school authorities and by the Alberta Teachers' Association; educators and knowledge keepers in First Nations, Métis and Inuit programs; and post-secondary subject specialists.

As you may have already seen, I sent an email on July 20, 2016 to school authority superintendents requesting participation in the development of future programs of study through the nomination of teachers to participate in subject Expert Working Groups. These groups are being established to collaborate on writing draft Kindergarten to Grade 12 programs of study.

Additional information about our plans for curriculum development, including updates on stakeholder engagement opportunities, will be posted on the Curriculum Development section of the Alberta Education website ([www.education.alberta.ca/curriculum-development/](http://www.education.alberta.ca/curriculum-development/)).

I want to thank Edmonton Public Schools for its support of this important curriculum development work and look forward to our upcoming collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Clarke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Curtis Clarke, PhD  
Deputy Minister