



April 27, 2016

Dear Parents, Staff and Supporters of Public Charter Schools,

You have no doubt heard or read recently that a few small groups are publically lobbying the government to discontinue funding support for public charter schools. Their primary goal is to limit or eliminate parental choice for the education of their children. We believe that choice strengthens public education and provides more opportunity for children to succeed.

We understand that some members of our charter schools community would like us to aggressively mount a publicity campaign to counter the incomplete, false and misleading information being circulated by the anti-charter school groups. We believe we will have more success by working directly and constructively with decision makers in government.

Recently, we met with the Honourable David Eggen, Minister of Education and his Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Ministers. I am happy to report that the Minister reassured us that “there are no changes planned” and funding to charter schools will remain in place.

In fact, Minister Eggen publically declared his support for choice in education in a letter to the editor of the [Calgary Herald](#). We were thrilled to read this and will continue to work collaboratively with the Minister and his department. In addition, we will continue to meet with MLAs who have charter schools in their constituencies and ensure our elected representatives are included in our activities and community. We will continue to work hard to build positive, supportive relationships and promote a better understanding and appreciation of public charter schools and their significant contributions in meeting the needs of Alberta’s students.

In closing, we accept the Minister’s assurances and trust that fiscal support for charter schools will continue. The recent budget confirms fiscal support and we will continue to work in collaboration with the provincial government. Through our member schools, we will do our best to keep our community members informed as we move forward in building a positive relationship with our new government.

Regards,

Dianne McBeth, President
The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools