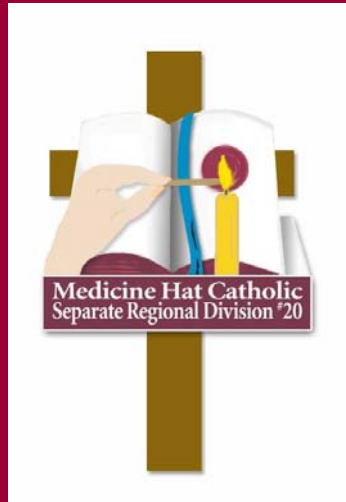


Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education



PUBLIC AGENDA

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 @ 3:00 p.m.

Catholic School Board Office
1251 – 1st Avenue SW Medicine Hat, AB

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education

ACTION AGENDA

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Place: Catholic Education Centre

Time: 3:00 P.M.

	<p>WE ARE CALLED Always and Everywhere to: Model Christ, Pray and Serve, Build a Faith Community Theme for 2014-2015: <i>Carrying the Light of Christ into the World</i></p>		
1.	<p><i>Opening Prayer – Blessing before a Meeting</i> <i>Lord, bless us as we gather today in your name. Send us the guidance of your Spirit to bring us wisdom and understanding. Help us to open our minds and our hearts so that we may listen respectfully to the viewpoints of others and make decisions in accordance with your wishes. Help us to grow in faith so that we may serve you and others in all that we do. We ask this grace through Christ our Lord. Amen.</i></p>	Dick Mastel	
2.	<p><i>Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting</i> <u>♦Recommendation:</u> THAT the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting January 13, 2014 be approved as circulated.</p>	PG	
3.	<p><i>Approval of the Action Agenda</i> <u>♦Recommendation:</u> THAT the Action Agenda dated February 10, 2015 be approved as circulated.</p>	PG	<i>Encl. 1 - 4</i>
4.	<p><i>Approval of the Non-Action Agenda</i> <u>♦Recommendation:</u> THAT the Non-Action Agenda dated February 10, 2015 be approved as circulated.</p>	PG	<i>Encl. 5</i>
5.	<p><i>Corporate Communications</i> <u>5.1 Letter to Premier Jim Prentice Bill 10, dated January 19, 2015</u> <u>5.2 Letter to Minister of Education Gordon Dirks, dated January 16, 2015</u> <u>5.3 Clue</u> <u>5.4 Seussical Jr.</u> <u>5.5 Media Release-St. Mary's School Award of Distinction</u> <u>5.6 Media Release-Acting Associate Superintendent Appointment</u></p>	PG	<i>Encl. 6 - 12</i>
6.	<p><i>Monsignor McCoy High School Modernization</i> <u>6.1 Website: www.mccoymodernization.ca</u> The website is active for Monsignor McCoy High School. The website contains the video interview describing the project as well as the online fundraising campaign.</p>	PG	<i>Encl. 13 - 14</i>
7.	<p><i>4:30 p.m. Presentation – Medicine Hat Autism Support Association</i> Mr. Hugh Lehr, Associate Superintendent, Learning Services will introduce the representative from The Medicine Hat Autism Support Association. The Association has donated \$4,000 to Medicine Hat Catholic Schools to support programs in the Division. The Board graciously accepts this very kind donation. A representative from Medicine Hat Autism Support Association will be in attendance.</p>	HL	<i>Encl. 15</i>

8.	<p><i>Ministerial Approval – Superintendent of Schools Appointment</i> The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce Ministerial approval has been received appointing Mr. Joe Colistro Superintendent of Schools effective Feb 1, 2015.</p> <p>8.1 RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOL ♦Recommendation: “BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education ratify the appointment for Mr. Joseph Colistro as Superintendent of Schools for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education and that the effect date of the appointment be February 01, 2015 to July 31, 2018”.</p> <p>8.2 RATIFICATION OF THE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT ♦Recommendation: “BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education ratify the contract of employment for Mr. Joseph Colistro as Superintendent of Schools for Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education and that the effective date of the contract of employment be February 1, 2015 to July 31, 2018”.</p>	PG	Encl. 16
9.	<p><i>Acting Superintendent Report – Mr. Joe Colistro</i> 9.1 Registration 9.2 Board Retreat 9.3 French Immersion 9.4 Fine Arts Meeting 9.5 School Year Calendar 2015 - 2016 9.6 Parent Association 9.7 Appointments</p>	JC	Report Encl. 17 - 18
10.	<p><i>Acting Associate Superintendent Human Resources – Mr. Chuck Hellman</i> 10.1 Welcome and Congratulations from the Board 10.2 Inspiring Education Update</p>	PG CH	
11.	<p><i>Secretary-Treasurer Report – Mr. Greg MacPherson</i> 11.1 Alberta Government Budget Survey http://alberta.ca/budget.cfm https://extranet.gov.ab.ca/opinio6/s?s=24566</p>	GM	Encl. 19 - 42
12.	<p><i>Associate Superintendent Learning Services – Mr. Hugh Lehr</i> 12.1 Learning Assistants Conference</p>	HL	Encl. 43 - 44
13.	<p><i>Religious Education Coordinator Report – Mrs. Jill Wilkinson</i> 13.1 Excellence in Catholic Education ♦Recommendation: THAT the Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education annually sponsor the successful recipient of the Excellence in Catholic Education Award to attend the SPICE Conference hosted by the Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA). 13.2 High School Religious Education Courses</p>	JW	Encl. 45 46
14.	<p>COMMITTEE REPORTS (presented by appointed Trustees)</p> <p>14.1 Medicine Hat Catholic Schools’ Education Foundation – Mrs. Regina Durst</p> <p>14.2 Representative to ACSTA– Mr. Dick Mastel</p> <p>14.3 Representative Teacher Board Advisory Committee – Reverend Mr. Robert Risling</p> <p>14.4 Representative to ASBA Zone 6 – Mr. Peter Grad 14.4.1 Zone 6 Handbook– Strategic Plan</p>	PG	

	<i>14.4.2 ASBA Annual Report</i>		
	14.5 Representative to Support Staff Board Advisory Committee– <i>Mrs. Regina Durst</i>		
	14.6 Representative to Parent Association– <i>Reverend Mr. Robert Risling</i>		
	14.7 Salary Negotiations		
	<u>14.7.1</u> ATA– <i>Mr. Peter Grad</i>		
	<u>14.7.2</u> CUPE– <i>Mr. Dick Mastel</i>		
	14.8 CUPE Staff Board Advisory Committee – <i>Reverend Mr. Robert Risling</i>		
	14.9 Spiritual Leadership Scholarship Board Representative – <i>Mrs. Regina Durst</i>		
	14.10 Student Board Advisory Committee – <i>Mr. Peter Grad</i>		
	14.11 C2 (Adhoc) Committee – <i>Reverend Mr. Robert Risling</i>		
	14.12 Monsignor McCoy Modernization (Adhoc) Committee – <i>Mrs. Regina Durst</i>		
15.	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Closing Prayer</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lord, we come to you today to seek the peace that you alone can give.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Strengthen us in our work as we seek to build a peaceful community.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Amen</i></p>	Dick Mastel	
16.	<i>Adjournment</i>		

NON – ACTION AGENDA

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 Place: Catholic Education Centre Time: 3:00 P.M.

No.	INFORMATION ITEMS	PAGE
1.1	<p><u>REGISTRATION – FEBRUARY 2015</u></p> <p>*FEBRUARY IS REGISTRATION MONTH in all Catholic schools in Medicine Hat for the 2015 – 2016 school year all grades.</p> <p>Open Houses, Orientation & Information Evenings held throughout February. Contact Your Local Catholic School to register or call the Catholic School Board Office 403.527.2292</p>	Encl. 47
1.2	<p><u>ALL ARE WELCOME–</u></p> <p><i>Are you a new resident to this country or new to our community or have a new learner getting ready to start school?</i> Did you know that Catholic Schools in Alberta are publicly funded? That means, while we have school fees, there is no tuition. Our Schools offer a faith filled education. We nourish the whole child, spiritually, socially and academically and all are welcome! Call us for information or to register in one of our nine Schools in the City of Medicine Hat. MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION – 403.527.2292 or www.mhcbe.ab.ca. Come, Experience Catholic Schools - “Showing the Face of Christ to All”.</p>	
1.3	<p><u>TAXES – DECLARE YOUR SUPPORT for CATHOLIC SCHOOLS</u> – <i>The Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education</i> reminds our community of the importance of declaring your PROPERTY TAXES in support of Catholic Education How do you declare your support? - To ensure your property taxes are supporting Catholic Schools, you must declare your Catholic school support as “Separate” on your annual property assessment notice. Contact the Taxation Office at the City of Medicine Hat, or the Town or Municipal Office in your area. Changes made on or before Dec 31 will be in effect for the next taxation year. Thank you for your supporting Catholic Schools.</p>	
1.4	<p><u>INSPIRING EDUCATION</u></p> <p>https://inspiring.education.alberta.ca/what-is-inspiring-education/</p>	

Notice of Public Board Meetings

- All regularly scheduled Public Board Meetings are the **2nd Tuesday** of each month held at the Catholic Education Centre located at 1251 – 1st Avenue SW (unless otherwise advertised).
- Public Board Meetings for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education will begin at **3:00 pm** with **presentations at 5:00 pm** (unless otherwise advertised).
- **General Public welcome to attend - Information @ www.mhcbe.ab.ca**



Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education

1251 – 1st Avenue SW, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8B4

Toll Free 1.866.864.0013

Phone 403.527.2292

www.mhcbe.ab.ca

Fax 403.529.0917

January 19, 2015

Premier Jim Prentice
307 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Prentice,

Re: Bill 10

As a member board of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association, we were pleased when you decided to put Bill 10 "on pause" before the Christmas break. Since then we have had the opportunity to discuss this bill more fully and want to offer our observations from two perspectives – philosophical and political.

Philosophically, our Catholic school division fully supports the belief that all students who require assistance or attention, regardless of the cause, must receive it. In that regard, we understand Bill 10 would mandate that all school divisions provide supports for students with a same-sex attraction through the creation of clubs or organization (GSA's). When this topic was first raised in the fall and our school division was called by an Alberta Education official asking if we had GSA clubs we responded by saying that our Administrative Procedure 160 (Safe and Caring Learning Environments) provides for such opportunities or organizations even though we would not call it a GSA club. Our AP states the following:

"In order to enhance an overall approach to supporting safe and caring learning environments for students, schools may establish co-curricular learning opportunities where an enhanced cause for promoting respect for the human person may be established".

We then outline the steps for the forming of such co-curricular organizations/clubs. They are not dissimilar from what we understand is being proposed through Bill 10. Therefore, since we already have the mechanism in place to support students with needs (GSA's, aboriginal etc.) we are not in support of having such a requirement put into legislation.

Politically, we are very concerned about the rights of school boards and locally elected officials to determine how best to meet the needs of their communities without the intervention of the provincial government. Once this legislation is put in place regarding this particular issue, what will the next issue be which the government determines it needs to enact legislation for? We are clearly concerned about the erosion of locally elected boards' ability to make decisions. Again, we are not in support of the enactment of Bill 10.

In closing, please accept our appreciation for delaying the third reading of this Bill so you could receive more feedback from the province's stakeholders. We ask that you reconsider the need for this Bill and allow it to die on the order paper. Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education.

Yours truly

Peter Grad, Chair
Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education

cc: ASBA, ACSTA
cc: Minister of Education, Honourable Gordon Dirks

"Showing the Face of Christ to All"

In partnership with Family, Church and Community since 1911



Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education

1251 – 1st Avenue SW, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8B4

Toll Free 1.866.864.0013

Phone 403.527.2292

www.mhcbe.ab.ca

Fax 403.529.0917

January 16, 2015

Honourable Minister of Education Gordon Dirks
Legislative Office, 320 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
TK5 2B6

Dear Honourable Minister Dirks,

Thanks for your reply to the letter sent to Premier Prentice. Although we understand the protocol, we had hoped to engage Premier Prentice, since it was he who responded to a question during an ASBA teleconference call. The question addressed the issue of boards needing to commit funds during modernization projects for their jurisdiction. His answer was a clear and simple: "They shouldn't have to". Because it was his response, we had hoped to hear directly from him.

Since you were asked to respond to our concern, we write holding two hopes:

1. That our board could have a personal discussion with you about specific extenuating circumstances regarding the modernization of our high school. The email of reply from Asia Wehbi of Premier Prentice's office indicated "for you to meet on his behalf" and "provide the Premier with an update/briefing from your meeting".
2. That, in the future, extenuating circumstances and barriers contiguous to modernizations would be avoided generally throughout the province.

After reading your reply and after more deliberation, our board must express disappointment at not having had an opportunity to speak with the Premier. We are especially disappointed that we did not have the opportunity to meet with you as part of the process of reviewing the situation and are saddened that you could not have "provided the Premier with an update/briefing from our meeting" since we did not even meet. We therefore ask for an opportunity to meet with you in person to discuss our concerns.

Immediately before the audit occurred we:

- Spent down our surplus because of criticism from previous ministers and a province wide budget crisis
- Moved our grade 9's out of McCoy to two middle schools because of an imminent population "bubble"
- Knew Programs and space were lacking for special curricula such as Home Ec. and I.A. at the middle schools

During the Monsignor McCoy Modernization Value Management Audit and subsequent scoping we learned:

- This kind of project takes on a much too accelerated momentum
- We were "coached" along a seemingly predetermined path which falls short of serving students properly
- There would be no accounting for a school population which was 25% less than it would be upon completion

Page 1 of 2

"Showing the Face of Christ to All"

In partnership with Family, Church and Community since 1911

Upon completion of the project in it's current form:

- Proper facilities to sustain special curricula won't exist whether we move the 9's back or not
- Students will not have been served properly

A longer list of extenuating circumstances exists. By allowing local governance to make decisions to facilitate local needs, the project would have been significantly different.

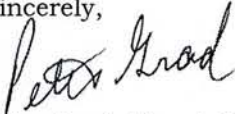
In the second paragraph of your response, you mention partnerships to enhance opportunities. At the time of the modernization announcement we moved quickly to discuss partnerships with the city of Medicine Hat. Unfortunately, their response was that the city's budget process had been completed for that cycle and all resources had been allocated. To meet the second hope mentioned above, we suggest that announcements for education infrastructure coincide with budget cycles across the province as per the Premier's mandate letters when referring to interdepartmental cooperation. The announcement of our modernization project was simply poor timing when it comes to budget cycles.

In conclusion, we submit that the foci of building schools are many. They must include teaching, learning, assessment, social gathering and, yes, infrastructure and proper funding. Minister Dirks, at Medicine Hat Catholic we walk the path with heart. We know that the best way to help students is to facilitate more than one way of learning, because children have many ways of understanding. We encourage Alberta Education, under your leadership, to facilitate more than one way of building schools and we feel that local jurisdictions should have greater autonomy in how allocated funding is utilized.

Minister Dirks, it is our wish to work with you to serve the children of our division. It is hard to work "with" you if you don't take the time to talk to us.

I can be reached by phone at 403.580.9030 or by email peter.grad@mhcbce.ab.ca. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Peter Grad, Board Chair
Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education

PG/dd

**Tickets available at
Monsignor McCoy High School
403 527-8161**

\$7 in Advance

\$8 at the Door

Dinner Theatre \$35 (Deadline for Dinner Theatre tickets is Wednesday, March 25)

Tickets available for purchase at Monsignor McCoy or at www.tixx.ca

+SC & GST



Clue

THE MUSICAL

Based on the Board Game by Parker Brothers.

**Book by Peter DePietro
Music by Galen Blum, Wayne Barker,
and Vinnie Martucci
Lyrics by Tom Chiodo**

Southside Events Centre

4 Strachan Rd SE, Medicine Hat, AB

March 26, 2015 at 7:00pm

March 27, 2015 at 7:00pm

March 28, 2015, Matinee at 1:00pm

Dinner Theatre - March 28, 2015 Dinner at 6, Show at 7:00pm

"Clue: The Musical" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

St. Mary's School
Presents

Seussical Jr.

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Book by Lynn Ahrens and
Steven Flaherty

Co-concieved by Lynn Ahrens,
Steven Flaherty and Eric Idle

Based on the works of Dr. Seuss

Music Supervised, Adapted and Produced by
Bryan Louiselle



Tuesday April 28, 2015 • 7:00PM
Wednesday April 29, 2015 • 6:30PM

\$12/Ticket
+ (S.C. + GST)



TICKETS at ESPLANADE
and
www.tixx.ca
Hotline 403.502.8777



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MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEDIA RELEASE

St. Mary's School Wins Award of Distinction.

We are very excited to announce that St. Mary's School has won a very prestigious provincial award, the **School Wellness Award of Distinction**.

This is due to the St. Mary's Health Initiative Team (HIT) that was created to address Health and Wellness in the School. Principal Chuck Hellman attributes the success of the initiative to Teacher Mrs. Rocheal Howes

"Big Thanks goes to Mrs. Rocheal Howes, who is the leader, advocate and spokesperson for our HIT team for all her hard work in making St. Mary's a healthier place. Without her leadership, this award would not have been possible," said Hellman

Following are some quick facts about the program.

- St. Mary's Health Initiative (HIT) began their journey in 2012.
- St. Mary's wanted to create a successful student-led wellness team that implemented healthy eating, active living and positive social environments and create a healthier school community.
- Students incorporated more fitness options in their dance and physical education classes (Zumba, meditation and circuit training).
- Purchased a food cart that would help sustain healthy food options for students (wraps, Caesar salad and fresh pasta).
- Turned an old classroom into a fitness centre for students to exercise outside of class time.
- Created 10 steps to 'Creating a Successful Student Wellness Team' and presented to Regional School Health Champion Workshop. This landed the HIT team with the Opening Keynote slot for the local Healthy Active School Symposium in October 2014.
- A Food Options class came to be with the help of Administration and Health Champions.

One of their goals for this is to organize a Wellness Conference for all students in their district.

Contact:

Principal Chuck Hellman or Teacher Mrs. Rocheal Howes

P. 403.527.7616

Photo Opps.: Fitness Room, Food Cart, Mrs. Rocheal Howes.

St. Mary's School located at 155 11th Street SW



MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEDIA RELEASE

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Acting Associate Superintendent Announced

The Medicine Hat Catholic School Board and Administration is pleased to announce that Mr. Chuck Hellman has been appointed Acting Associate Superintendent. Currently Mr. Hellman is Principal at St. Mary's School in Medicine Hat and will be starting his new role on February 9, 2015.

Mr. Hellman brings strong leadership and experience with a desire to continue building relationships in order to support this role. He has served Medicine Hat Catholic for 26 years in various roles including Principal, Vice-Principal & Teacher.

Most recently, Mr. Hellman has been instrumental in his leadership of the Inspiring Education Initiative for the Division. In addition, his leadership has expanded to exploring partnership opportunities with the Medicine Hat College in the areas of marketing, programming and entrepreneurship. These collaborative partnership opportunities will serve to benefit our division and support students.

We welcome Mr. Hellman to his new role.

Contact information on this Release

Acting Superintendent Joe Colistro

403.527.2292

joe.colistro@mhcbe.ab.ca

Acting Associate Superintendent Chuck Hellman

403.527.2292

chuck.hellman@mhcbe.ab.ca



Monsignor McCoy High School – MODERNIZATION –



MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

Invest in OUR KIDS, invest in OUR SCHOOL!

www.mccoymodernization.ca

The Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education is pleased to receive funds in the amount of \$9.2M from the Ministry of Alberta Education for the modernization of Monsignor McCoy High School. Although this will be a remarkable step towards meeting the needs of our school, additional funds are needed for enhancements not covered by the grant.

HOW TO INVEST

- * Invest online at www.mccoymodernization.ca
- * Invest by cash or cheque. Donation envelopes available at Catholic Schools and the Catholic School Board Office. Cheques are payable to: Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation.
- * The Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation is pleased to be a partner and support the modernization project. The Foundation will issue tax receipts to eligible donations.
- * Inquiries directed to the Medicine Hat Catholic School Board Office at 403.527.2292 or email communications@mhcbce.ab.ca



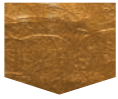
All donations big or small are much appreciated. We graciously accept your donation to the modernization project.



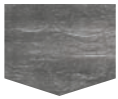
Thank You

INVESTOR WALL OF FAME PROGRAM

By choosing the amount most suitable to you and your family, or your organization, you will be able to place your name, or a name of your choice on the Investor Wall of Fame. Your name will be prominently displayed.



☐ YES, I would like to be a Bronze Level Sponsor.
Investment level:
\$1,000 to \$9,999



☐ YES, I would like to be a Silver Level Sponsor.
Investment level:
\$10,000 to \$19,999



☐ YES, I would like to be a Gold Level Sponsor.
Investment level:
\$20,000 & Above

CONTRIBUTION TOTAL: \$_____

PURCHASE A BRICK PROGRAM

By participating in this program you will have your name, or a name of your choice placed on a brick within the school.

☐

YES, I would like to purchase a brick at Monsignor McCoy.

Investment level: \$500 - \$999

Number of brick(s) to purchase _____

CONTRIBUTION TOTAL: \$_____

FRIENDS OF MONSIGNOR MCCOY PROGRAM

Donors will have the option to have their contributions recognized in the Board Bulletin and Monsignor McCoy modernization website.

☐

YES, I would like to give to the Friends of Monsignor McCoy Program.

Investment level: \$1 - \$499

CONTRIBUTION TOTAL: \$_____

INVEST IN OUR KIDS, INVEST IN OUR SCHOOL!

www.mccoymodernization.ca

Inquiries directed to the Catholic School Board Office at 403.527.2292

NAME: _____

NAME/BUSINESS (Recognized For Donation): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/PROV _____ P/CODE _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

DONATION AMOUNT: \$_____

Method of Payment ☐ Cheque ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Cash

* Cheques payable to:

Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date

Signature



Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation

Please mail or deliver this form along with your contribution to:

Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation

1251-1st Avenue SW
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8B4

Tax receipts will be issued at year end for eligible donations.

Charitable Tax Receipt # 876792821 RR0001



C/o Lilas Litousky, President
189 South Ridge Drive S.E.
Medicine Hat, AB. T1B 3K8
403-504-4147
lilasluv@telus.net

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education

1251 – 1 Avenue S.W.
Medicine Hat, AB. T1A 8B4
February 3, 2015

Re: Donation for Student Supports

Dear Members of the Board;

The Medicine Hat Autism Support was founded on principles of bringing about proactive and positive awareness for Autism and related disorders in Medicine Hat. Throughout our five years this has included an art exhibit, family fun days, movie showings, educational presentations and awareness events. As an Association we have become unable to carry out these functions to the standard we initially set out and have decided to pass along our funds to those who we feel could utilize our financial donation directly to the children who need it the most.

We would appreciate that the \$4000 go toward physical supports that would benefit students of any level of ability and any age. These could be in the form of sensory tools, communication technologies, or occupational therapy devices like stabilization balls or stand up desks. Anything that would help a student learn to their optimum potential, we fully support. We wish we could have given more but are confident that your Board will find the best possible uses for our donation. Thank you for accepting the terms of our donation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lilas Litousky".

Lilas Litousky
President, Medicine Hat Autism Support Association

Deputy Minister
7th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 - 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L5
Canada
Telephone 780-427-3659
Fax 780-427-7733

AR88025

January 30, 2015

Mr. Peter Grad
Board Chair
Medicine Hat Catholic Regional Division
1251 1 Avenue SW
Medicine Hat AB T1A 8B4

Dear Mr. Grad:

Paul MacLeod, Registrar, has forwarded your January 13, 2015 request for the Minister's approval of the appointment of Joseph George Colistro as Superintendent of Schools for Medicine Hat Catholic Regional Division. A completed *Notice of Intent to Appoint the Superintendent*, Form 4, was attached; thank you for providing this information.

Given your strong endorsement, the Minister has approved the appointment of Mr. Colistro as Superintendent of Schools for Medicine Hat Catholic Regional Division, effective February 1, 2015 to July 31, 2018, pursuant to Section 113 of the *School Act*.

Please extend my congratulations to Mr. Colistro on his appointment.

Sincerely,



Lorna Rosen
Deputy Minister

GENERAL MEETING

1. Registration 2015-2016

In an effort to provide greater ease for parents, registration for the 2015-2016 school year was completed through a pre-populated *Student Registration Form*. Central office staff worked closely with out IT department to transfer data. The Registration Form is divided into Sections 1 – 19 and has been populated with data stored in SIRS.

2. **Board Retreat** – A retreat was held for the trustees and central office staff on February 7, 2015 to review the MHCBE Strategic Plan and discuss developments in the Catholic Education Standards. Rob and Lori Benns from *Positive Culture* served as the facilitators. The retreat provided an opportunity to look back at the many successes and strategic priorities of the division while also looking forward to next steps and future needs.

3. French Immersion

An enrollment analysis has been collected and is attached showing the anticipated enrolment of students in French immersion throughout the division. The analysis shows the cohort change from ECS to grade 12. Currently MHCBE offers French Immersion to students in grade K-6 at Ecole St. Thomas d'Aquin, grade 7-9 at St. Mary's and through distance learning at Monsignor McCoy grades 10-12 in English and Social Studies.

4. Fine Arts meeting

On January 23rd I met with the Fine Arts staff representing each of our schools. They took the opportunity to share with me some of the great things that have been accomplished in the area of Fine Arts over the years and discuss where the program might be suffering. Looking ahead they would love to see the Division set goals and create a Fine Arts vision. We had an open and positive conversation about the future of the program. I reassured them as a Division we are committed to excellence in all school programs, including Fine Arts.

5. 2015-2016 School Calendar

The 2015 - 2016 school calendar has been reviewed by all stakeholders including the DLT, Local President of the ATA, division staff, trustees and parents. All feedback received has been reviewed and is being considered. The 2015-2016 school calendar will be brought forward for approval at the March meeting.

- 6. Parent Association** – A parent meeting was held on January 26th at Notre Dame. This was a very informative and collaborative meeting where parents had the opportunity to provide feedback on a number of areas including the new website, calendar and professional development. Rolf Traichel, Division Director of Information Services, reviewed the new website that we anticipate will be completed within the next few weeks. I took the opportunity to provide a draft 2015-2016 school calendar for parent review. Another initiative we have been working on is, *Workshops for Parents*. At the meeting the committee completed a survey on the top areas they would like to have a workshop presented.

7. Appointments

a. Interviews were held on January 26th for the Acting Associate Superintendent - Human Resources:

Mr. Chuck Hellman was appointed Acting Associate Superintendent Human Resources for MHCBE beginning February 9, 2015. Mr. Hellman brings strong leadership and experience with a desire to continue building relationships in order to support this role. He has served Medicine Hat Catholic for 26 years in various roles including Principal, Vice-Principal & Teacher. Most recently, Mr. Hellman has been instrumental in his leadership of the Inspiring Education Initiative for the Division. In addition, his leadership has expanded to exploring partnership opportunities with the Medicine Hat College in the areas of marketing, programming and entrepreneurship. These collaborative partnership opportunities will serve to benefit our division and support students. Congratulations are extended to Mr. Hellman.

b. Acting Principal, St. Mary's School:

Mr. Mike Weisgerber was appointed Acting Principal of St. Mary's School beginning February 9, 2015. Mike has served in the Division for 25 years including his role as Principal at St. Michael's School in Bow Island with his most recent assignment as Vice-Principal of St. Mary's School. I am confident in Mr. Weisgerber's strengths and abilities to continue the strong leadership at the School. Congratulations are extended to Mr. Mike Weisgerber.

c. Acting Vice-Principal, St. Mary's School - Temporary position

The position of Vice-Principal of St. Mary's school was posted internally on February 3th, 2015. Interviews will be held during the week of February 9-13 with the start date to be as soon as possible.



Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education

Board Meeting Agenda Item

February 10, 2015

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Secretary-Treasurer

Agenda Item: Alberta Government Budget Survey

Purpose: Discussion

Strategic Plan Reference: Efficient and Effective Operations

Enclosures: 1. Backgrounder on Budget Survey
2. Budget Survey Questions

Background: The Alberta Government is offering an opportunity to provide input in the upcoming Alberta budget. Details are located at:
<http://alberta.ca/budget.cfm> .

The survey may be found at:
<https://extranet.gov.ab.ca/opinio6/s?s=24556>

This is an opportunity for individual Albertans to share concerns. The current economic challenges further emphasizes the need for adequate, stable predictable funding for education.

The survey is open until February 28, 2015.

It is recommended that Trustees individually complete the survey on their own. As there are many aspects it would be a challenge to have a single corporate response.

There is a public speaking tour and luncheon on Friday February 13, 2015 at 11:30 am in the Chinook Village Terrance Room. The event is led by Robin Campbell, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance. There is a registration process and the cost is \$35.00.

A copy of the survey is attached for review.

Recommendation/Decision: That the Board of Trustees individual complete the survey to ensure their views as trustees are articulated to the government.

Education stakeholders are also encouraged to complete the survey to ensure their views are known.

Completion of the survey may take 10 – 15 minutes.

Resulting Action: To be determined

Responsibility: Trustees



🕒 Feb 05, 2015

Government seeks input on Budget 2015

Albertans can tell government how to address the \$7 billion challenge facing Budget 2015.

A new online survey asks Albertans to identify spending reductions and revenue opportunities to address the financial challenges caused by low oil prices. Ideas are also invited on how to stabilize Alberta's revenue over the longer term.

Low oil prices mean lower royalty revenue and less economic activity, and will result in a shortfall of approximately \$7 billion in Budget 2015 if changes are not made. This represents a revenue loss of more than 15 per cent, and risks the economic strength of the province.

"This situation requires tough decisions from government and we want to hear from as many Albertans as possible. Albertans expect that government will find savings and tighten its own belt before examining any other option. Hearing and listening to Albertans' comments is important as we transition to a long-term sustainable fiscal framework."

- Robin Campbell, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance

Ministers and MLAs have been talking about budget issues with Albertans at town hall meetings, Chamber of Commerce events, and on call-in shows. More than 1,500 Albertans have written and called to voice their ideas on how to reduce spending, increase revenue, deficits and debt.

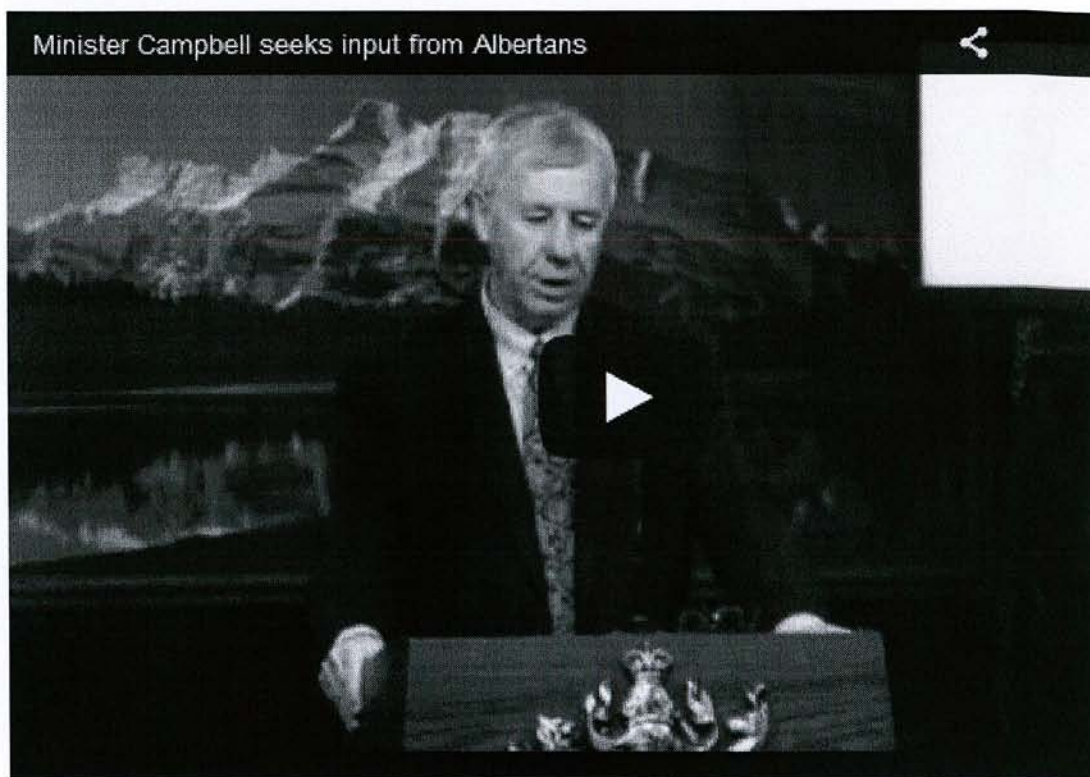
As part of belt-tightening, cabinet ministers have taken a voluntary five per cent salary reduction and the Legislature's Member Services Committee voted unanimously for all

MLAs to follow suit. Further, the Alberta government is containing costs by restricting hiring, reducing travel, and limiting discretionary spending. All government departments have been ordered to examine their operations for cost savings, such as only printing reports that are required by legislation, restricting advertising and cutting sponsorships for conferences and events.

All government agencies, boards and commissions, including Alberta Health Services, post-secondary institutions and other publicly funded service providers have been asked to also contain spending and find cost savings.

The survey will remain posted at budget.alberta.ca until the end of February. Background information on Alberta's fiscal situation and government revenues is also available online.

Listen to the news conference



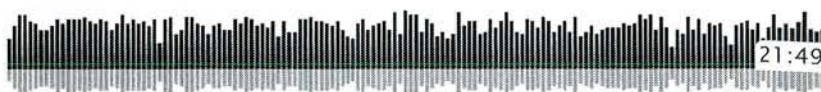


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Related information

[Budget 2015 information](#)

Media inquiries

✉ **Kevin Zahara**

☎ 780-904-7962

Press Secretary, Treasury Board and Finance

Budget 2015 | Alberta's Budget Situation

Alberta faces major fiscal challenges with the collapse in oil prices.

Oil prices have fallen by more than 50% since June 2014, touching below \$50 per barrel recently.

Due to the severe drop-off in energy-related revenues, the province is facing an annual revenue shortfall of up to \$7 billion. That's about 15% of total provincial revenue. There are short-term and long-term effects that we will have to address.

How natural resources contribute to our economy

Alberta's real GDP growth has been 4% per year over the past 5 years — by far the highest of any province.

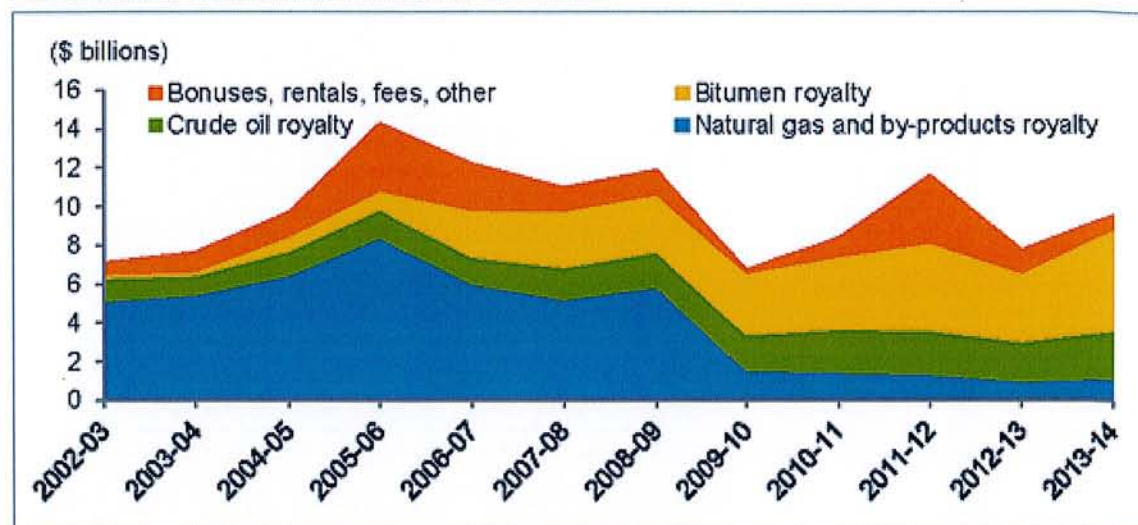
In 2015, the economy is expected to grow much more slowly, at a rate of less than 2%.

>> [Summary of private sector forecasts](#)

The drop in revenue is far more severe than the slowdown in the economy. This is because the province's revenue sources — including energy royalties and income taxes — are relatively sensitive to changes in energy prices.

Alberta's resource revenue is highly volatile

Alberta Non-Renewable Resource Revenue



Source: Government of Alberta, Annual Reports

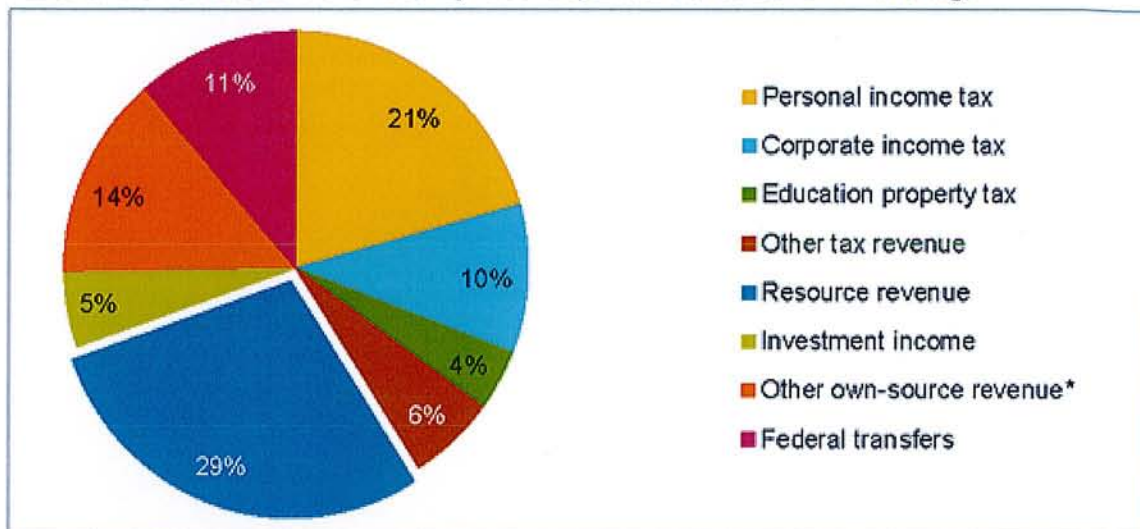
The revenue challenge

Over the past decade, about 30% of provincial revenue on average has come directly from natural resources through energy royalties.

This 30% figure captures part of the energy sector's contribution, since much of Alberta's corporate and income tax revenue is also tied to the development of oil and gas resources.

Taxes comprise a relatively small share of total revenues

Alberta Government Revenues by Source, 2002-03 to 2013-14 average



Source: Government of Alberta, Annual Reports
 * Other revenue excluding federal transfers

The tax challenge

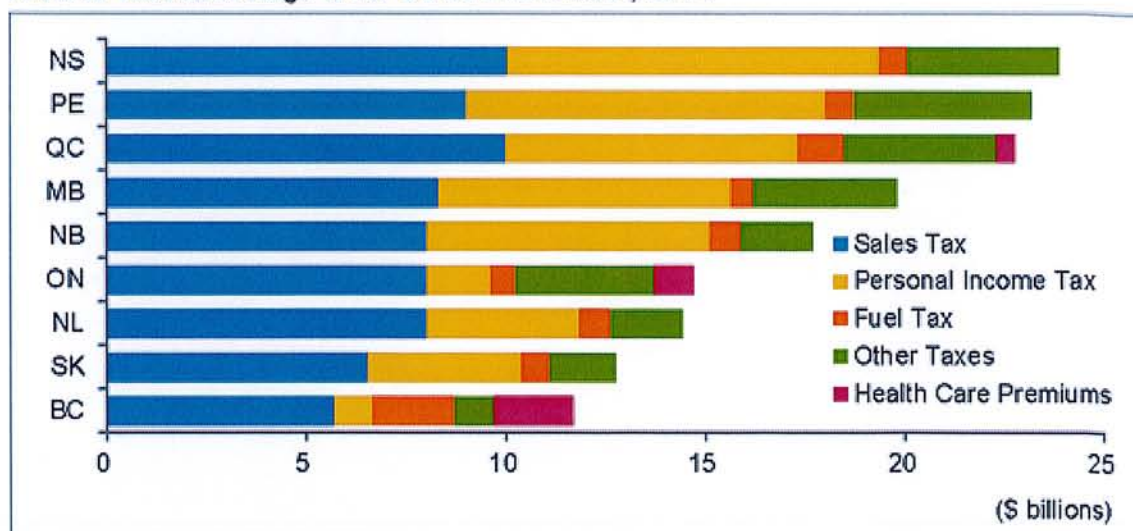
Alberta relies far less on taxes than any other province because of resource revenue.

That is why Albertans and Alberta businesses presently enjoy by far the lowest overall taxes in Canada. They pay at least \$11.6 billion less per year in taxes than they would if they had the tax system of any other province in Canada.

About half of this advantage comes from being the only province without a provincial sales tax, while the remainder comes from other taxes.

Over \$11 billion tax advantage vs. next most competitive province

Alberta Tax Advantage Over Other Provinces*, 2014



Source: Government of Alberta, Budget 2014
 Alberta = \$0 * Additional taxes Alberta individuals and businesses would pay if Alberta had the same tax system of other provinces.

The spending challenge

In the last two years, Alberta has added more than 100,000 people per year.

Alberta's per capita program spending, including education, health care and social services is roughly \$1,300 above the national average.

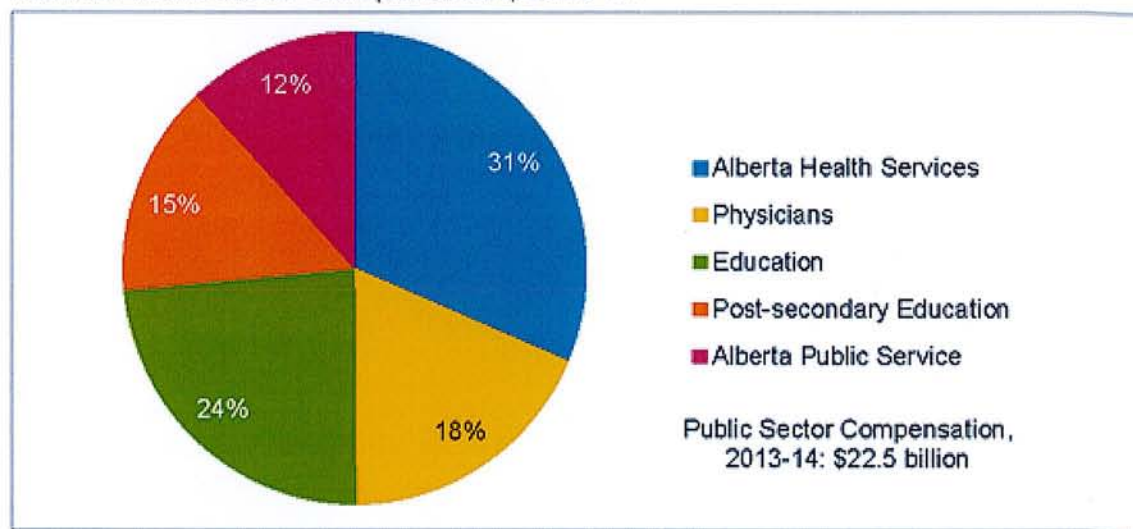
Nearly half of total annual expenditure by the province goes to compensation, in the form of wages, salaries, and benefits for public sector workers. The province's total compensation bill was \$22.5 billion in 2013-14.

This figure includes compensation costs for individuals employed in the following areas:

- schools
- colleges
- universities
- health care facilities (including physicians)
- provincial government

Compensation is nearly half the provincial budget

Alberta Public Sector Compensation, 2013-14



Source: Government of Alberta, Annual Report

What the government has already done

Over the last 2 fiscal years, government operating expense has been relatively restrained, growing at just over 3% a year. This is well below the combined rate of inflation and population growth.

More recently, the government announced a number of measures to control spending.

>> News release: [Alberta takes action to control spending](#) (Dec. 15, 2014)

>> Background: [Alberta's Fiscal Situation](#) (pdf, 4 pages)

Finance Minister answers questions about the fiscal situation

Budget 2015 | Actions to date

Government is acting to contain costs and reduce expenses as part of its efforts to deal with the loss of revenue caused by low oil prices. Since December 2014, a variety of actions have been taken.

Actions include:

- Restricting new hiring to critical operations only
- Reducing travel and spending in areas not linked to critical operations or legal requirements
- Ordering all departments to examine operations for cost savings
- Reducing the printing and publication of reports to only what is required by legislation
- No longer sponsoring conference and events that were not previously committed to

>> News release: [Government seeks input on Budget 2015](#) (Feb 5, 2015)

>> News release: [Alberta takes action to control spending](#) (Dec 15, 2014)

Outside agencies, boards and commissions

All government agencies, boards and commissions, including Alberta Health Services, post-secondary institutions and other publicly funded service providers have been asked to follow similar actions as listed. These cost savings will be reflected in the current year's budget and set the stage for Budget 2015.

>> News Release: [AHS announces cost-containment measures](#) (Feb 5, 2015)

Cabinet salaries

Effective February 1, cabinet ministers will voluntarily take a five per cent wage reduction as part of a commitment to fiscal discipline.

>> News release: [Cabinet ministers take five per cent pay cut; MLAs asked to follow suit](#) (Jan 29, 2015)

Previous: [Alberta's budget situation](#)

Next: [Economic forecasts](#)



🕒 Dec 15, 2014

Alberta takes action to control spending

Cost containment measures taken immediately, and new committee lays foundation for Budget 2015.

Resource revenues are expected to be lower while the population is expected to be higher, and the combination poses some unique challenges for Alberta.

"This is not budgeting as usual. Governing responsibly requires us to be disciplined with spending, prudent with revenues, and cautious with forecasts. We are taking action, and I have asked a team to devote their energy and attention to ensuring we make the right decisions for Albertans."

- *Premier Jim Prentice*

A new seven-member Budget 2015 Committee will begin work on the 2015 budget. Members are:

- Jim Prentice, Premier (chair);
- Robin Campbell, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance (vice-chair);
- Stephen Mandel, Minister of Health;
- Diana McQueen, Minister of Municipal Affairs;
- Frank Oberle, Minister of Energy;
- Manmeet Bhullar, Minister of Infrastructure; and
- Ric McIver, Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour

The committee's work begins immediately, and will continue until the budget is introduced in the spring. The committee will be looking at economic projections, capital and operating budgets, policy commitments, and revenue forecasts. It will make recommendations to Treasury Board.

Ministers are not receiving additional compensation for this work.

The Government of Alberta is also taking action to control spending for the remainder of this fiscal year through cost containment measures.

"While our provincial financial picture is strong and we are in the best position to deal with this low price environment, it is important that we take action and control spending. Sustained low prices are having a significant impact on provincial revenues and we must exercise fiscal discipline and treat taxpayer dollars prudently."

- President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, Robi  bell

A number of actions are being taken to control spending in three main areas:

Payroll/staffing costs

Effective immediately, a hiring restraint initiative has been implemented. The intent is to limit any growth in overall staffing costs. Hiring may still occur for positions that are critical to government operations or provide frontline services to Albertans. These will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with Deputy Ministers required to review and approve recruitment to all positions.

Public sector compensation is the largest driver of government expense, accounting for \$22.5 billion in direct and indirect spending last fiscal year.

Procurement of goods and services

Spending on goods and services is to be limited, wherever possible, to those required to meet critical operational requirements or legal commitments.

Grants/discretionary spending

Any discretionary grants, travel, training and other related costs are to be limited across government unless they are required to meet critical operational requirements or legal commitments.

Agencies, Boards and Commissions along with the SUCH sector (Schools, Universities, Colleges and Health Authorities) will also be asked to implement similar cost containment measures.

Media inquiries

✉ **Kevin Zahara**

☎ 780-638-4510

Press Secretary, Treasury Board and Finance



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Budget 2015 Online Consultation - Page 1

1. To what extent do you think low oil prices impact the Alberta government's ability to budget?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not very much
- ☐ Not at all

2. The provincial government is projecting a shortfall of \$7 billion or a 15 per cent reduction in revenue next year. How concerned are you about that shortfall?

- ☐ Extremely concerned
- ☐ Somewhat concerned
- ☐ Not very concerned
- ☐ Not concerned at all

3. Some people think the current economic situation is a normal cyclical event that Alberta should ride out. Others think that the current economic situation is an urgent matter that the Alberta government must quickly respond to. To ensure the long-term prosperity and sustainability of the province, do you think the government should take action now, wait six months to see where the economy is going, or hold out until high oil prices return?

- ☐ Take action now
- ☐ Wait six months
- ☐ Hold out for high oil prices

4. Some people think that the Alberta government needs stable sources of revenue so that oil price fluctuations don't have as much impact on the provincial budget. Other people think the government has sufficient revenue and needs to better manage its spending. Which of these is closer to your own opinion?

- ☐ Government needs stable sources of revenue so that oil price fluctuations don't have as much impact on the provincial budget.
- ☐ Government needs to better manage its spending and not rely so much on oil revenue.
- ☐ Government needs to balance its approach and look at spending cuts and stabilizing revenue sources.



#ABbudget

 Budget 2015 Online Consultation - Page 2

5. The Alberta government is forecasting up to a \$7 billion revenue shortfall for the coming year due to the recent drop in the price of oil. The government has said its first priority is to make cuts at the top to lead by example and to look for efficiencies, but experts say that is unlikely to be enough to solve the problem.

How acceptable do you think it is for the government to:

	Not at all acceptable	Not very acceptable	Somewhat acceptable	Very acceptable
a) Cut spending on programs and services, including healthcare and education, in order to balance the budget.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Raise taxes and user fees to reduce reliance on oil revenues in order to balance the budget.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Borrow money to cover the current shortfall in revenues while we wait for oil prices to rebound.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Government has choices about how to respond to the shortfall in revenue. What is the right balance?

	Balance of possible ways to address revenue shortfall (should total 100%)
a) Reduce expenditures	<input type="text"/>
b) Raise taxes and user fees	<input type="text"/>
c) Run a deficit	<input type="text"/>

Total (will calculate):

0

37%

[Previous Page](#) [Save Survey](#) [Next Page](#)

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Budget 2015 Online Consultation - Page 3

7. Compared to other provinces, would you say current tax rates in Alberta are higher, about average, or lower?

- ☐ Higher
- ☐ About average
- ☐ Lower

8. How important is it that Alberta's tax rates are lower than other provinces?

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not at all important

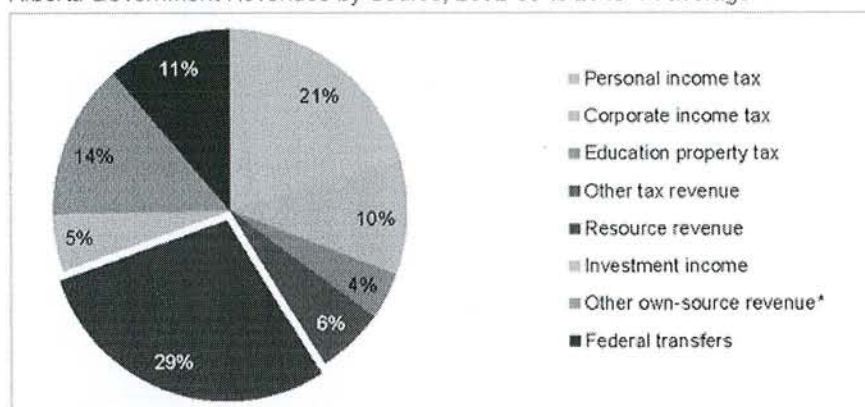
50%

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Budget 2015 Online Consultation - Page 4

Alberta Government Revenues by Source, 2002-03 to 2013-14 average



Source: Government of Alberta, Annual Reports

* Other revenue excluding federal transfers

9. In what ways can the government act to increase and/or stabilize its revenues without jeopardizing Alberta's competitive position? (Please choose at least one, or as many as you support):

- ☐ Implementing a provincial sales tax, which would increase revenue by approximately \$1 billion per percentage point. For example, a 3% sales tax raises approximately \$3 billion.
- ☐ Bring back health premiums at the old rates, which would increase revenue by approximately \$1 billion.
- ☐ Increase corporate income tax, which would increase revenue by approximately \$500 million per percentage point.
- ☐ Increase the existing personal income flat tax, which would increase revenue by approximately \$1 billion per percentage point.
- ☐ Introduce a graduated personal income tax rate that would increase the tax rate on incomes over a certain level. For example, a graduated rate of 13% for people who earn over \$100,000 would increase revenue by more than \$1 billion.
- ☐ Increase the tax on gas, which would increase revenue by approximately \$63 million for every one-cent-per-litre increase.
- ☐ Increase the tax on a carton of cigarettes, which would increase revenue by approximately \$23 million for every one-dollar increase.
- ☐ Increase the markups charged on liquor sales, which would increase revenue by approximately \$7 million per percentage point.
- ☐ Government should not increase taxes in any way.

10. If the government needs to increase its revenues through taxation, are there options you feel should NOT be considered? (Please choose at least one.)

- ☐ Introducing a provincial sales tax
- ☐ Introducing a graduated progressive income tax to replace the current flat tax
- ☐ Reintroducing Health Care Premiums
- ☐ Raising personal income tax
- ☐ Raising corporate income tax
- ☐ Raising fuel tax
- ☐ All options should be considered

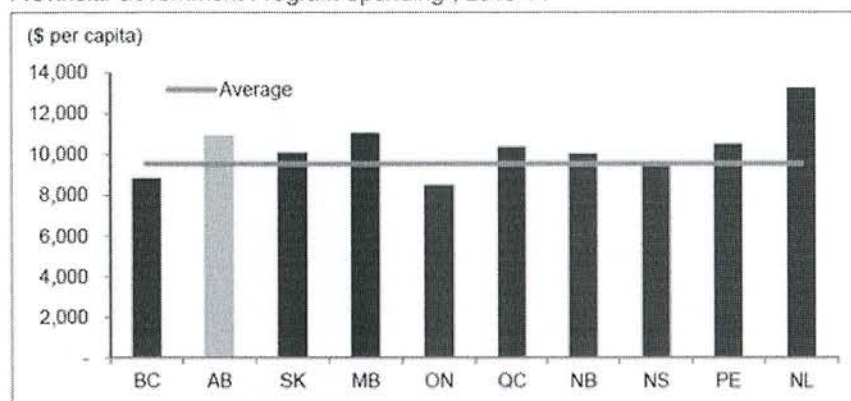
62%

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 Budget 2015 Online Consultation - Page 5

Provincial Government Program Spending*, 2013-14



Source: Finance Canada Fiscal Reference Tables and Statistics Canada.

* On a fully accrued basis. Includes capital amortization but excludes debt servicing costs.

11. Alberta per capita spending is roughly \$1200 above the national average. If the government needs to cut spending, are there certain programs or services where you would tolerate cuts? (Please choose at least one option.)

- ☐ Healthcare, but only administrative and other non-front-line staff and services
- ☐ Healthcare, including front-line workers
- ☐ Education, but only administrative and other non-front-line staff and services
- ☐ Education, including front-line workers
- ☐ Funding to municipalities
- ☐ Funding to universities and colleges
- ☐ Infrastructure (roads, bridges)
- ☐ Infrastructure (building hospitals)
- ☐ Infrastructure (building schools)
- ☐ Everything should be considered
- ☐ Other public services and government programs (specify):

12. And are there options you feel should NOT be touched? (Please choose at least one option.)

☐

Healthcare, but only administrative and other non-front-line staff and services

☐ Healthcare, including front-line workers

☐ Education, but only administrative and other non-front-line staff and services

☐ Education, including front-line workers

☐ Funding to municipalities

☐ Funding to universities and colleges

☐ Infrastructure (roads, bridges)

☐ Infrastructure (building hospitals)

☐ Infrastructure (building schools)

☐ Everything should be considered

☐ Other public services and government programs (specify):

75%

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 Budget 2015 Online Consultation - Page 6

13. With regard to the following statements, please indicate whether you agree, disagree or don't know:

	Don't know	Disagree	Agree
a) I am concerned about the province's reliance on oil and gas revenue because of its boom and bust cycle and its impact on programs and services.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Even if it means fewer services, we should save more of our oil and gas revenue for the future because it is a non-renewable resource.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) It is wrong for Alberta to rely too heavily on oil and gas revenue because the price is controlled by forces outside of the province.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) It is okay for government to borrow money for hospitals, roads and schools because future generations will also enjoy them and should share the cost.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) The government should protect key services from cuts, even if that means running a deficit.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) The Alberta government should never run a deficit in any circumstances.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

81%

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Budget 2015 Online Consultation - Page 7

14. If we missed something, please take a moment to provide additional comments (maximum 1500 characters):

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Budget 2015 Online Consultation - Page 8

15. How many years have you lived in Alberta?

- ☐ Less than 10 years
- ☐ 11 to 40 years
- ☒ 41 or more years

16. What part of the province do you live in?

- ☒ South
- ☐ Central
- ☐ North
- ☐ Edmonton (and area)
- ☐ Calgary (and area)

100%[Previous Page](#) [Save Survey](#) [Finish Survey](#)

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This is not budgeting as usual. Governing responsibly requires us to be disciplined with spending, prudent with revenues, and cautious with forecasts.

Thank you for your participation in this online consultation. Please direct any additional comments or questions to alberta.ca/contact.cfm.

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**Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education
Board Meeting
Agenda Item**

Date: Feb. 10, 2015

Agenda Item: Learning Assistant's PD Day

Name: Hugh Lehr

Purpose: **Information**, Discussion or Action

Attachments: None

Background:

L.A. PD Day 2015 (January 23rd) @ St. Mary's School

At-a-glance:

8:45 – 9:00 Welcome
9:00 – 10:00 Hugh/Kym – Supporting all students

Break

10:15 – 11:30 Vicki Glass – Inspiring Education

Lunch/Yoga – Angelique

12:45 – 2:45

Autism	FASD	Visual Supports for Regulation	Supporting Students Appropriately
Sandy/Karen	Danielle Schaitel	Monica Braat	Vicki Glass

Big thank you to all those who made the Learning Assistant day a success. Especially our planning team (Mary Kahl, Danita Marshall, Tracey Hammel, Kym Porter). Through the efforts of Tracey and Danita we had a great show of support from our community in the form of prizes. Huge thank you to the students of St. Mary's who prepared and served the lunch. (and their teacher Rocheal Howes)

Thank you also goes out to Deacon Robert and Joe Colistro for their warm welcome and introductions.

"It was a great day and I must say I was really touched by the number of people who went out of their way to provide me with welcomes, personalized feedback and thoughtfulness. It would appear that your staff truly are living their faith. Thanks for the opportunity." – Vicki Glass

I have added a link below to a survey to get feedback on the day. We really appreciate your honest feedback as we endeavor to provide quality professional learning opportunities in the future. Please consider completing the survey by Friday February 13, 2015.

I have also added the link below to the “looking for Light” blog where you can find the presenters notes (as they come in) and future PD information. Click the tab labelled “Professional Learning”.

Thanks once again for your attendance and participation.

Hugh Lehr and Kym Porter

“Looking for Light” Blog - <http://mhcbelarningservices.wordpress.com/>

Recommendation:

Resulting Action:

Responsibility:



***Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education
Board Meeting
Agenda Item***

Date: February 10, 2015

Agenda Item: Excellence in Catholic Education Award

Name: Jill Wilkinson

Purpose: Information/Board Motion

Attachments: None

Background: Three nominations have been submitted as possible recipients of the Excellence in Catholic Education Award. The selection committee will meet on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 to choose the candidate who fulfills the criteria established by the CCSSA. The winning recipient will be recognized at the S.P.I.C.E. retreat in April.

Recommendation /Decision: As part of the award to recognize an outstanding educator who is preparing our youth to grow into outstanding Catholic citizens, it is recommended that the winning recipient receive funds to enable him/her to attend the S.P.I.C.E. retreat. Funds would cover the registration, hotel, subsistence (\$1 143) and mileage (\$383).

Resulting Action:

- Board motion brought forward to cover expenses for winning recipient to attend SPICE
- The CCSSA will be provided with the name of the recipient
- A 300 word summary will accompany the submission of the name
- A brief introduction will be included. This introduction will be used at the award ceremony
- Nominees will be recognized as Ambassadors of Catholic Education during the March board meeting

Responsibility:

Board of Trustees, Selection Committee, and Religion Education coordinator



Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education

Board Meeting

Agenda Item

Date: February 10, 2015

Agenda Item: High School Religious Education Courses

Name: Jill Wilkinson

Purpose: Information

Attachments: None

Background: Permission to use Religious Studies 15, 25 and 35 will expire at the end of August 2015. The new curriculum is to be implemented starting September 2015 and will be in effect for four years until August 2019. The ACSTA owns these courses and the Edmonton Catholic School District administers them. The courses will no longer be called Religious Studies but will instead be called Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 15, 25, 35. The new program is entitled Go and Make Disciples – Living the Great Commission. Monsignor McCoy has received the new curriculum document.

Recommendation /Decision:

- MHCBE will make application to Edmonton Catholic to acquire the locally developed courses.
- Meetings between the high school religion teacher and the religious education coordinator will highlight changes in the curriculum and determine what supports are needed.
- A meeting for all high school teachers and religious education coordinators will be held in Brooks on April 27th. The focus of the meeting is to better understand the new curriculum, build assessments and share resources.

Resulting Action:

Once the courses have been acquired, permission to teach them will be brought to the board for approval.

Responsibility:

Executive Secretary, Superintendent, Religious Education Coordinator

FEBRUARY REGISTRATION

***FEBRUARY IS REGISTRATION MONTH in all Catholic schools in
Medicine Hat for the 2015-2016 School year.**

Open Houses, Orientation & Information Evenings held throughout February.

***Are you a new resident to Canada, new to our City,
transferring or have a new learner getting ready to start school?***

All are Welcome. Register now!

Contact one of our Nine Catholic Schools or call the Catholic School Board Office 403.527.2292

Details @ www.mhcbe.ab.ca Click on the [Parents Tab](#)

Did you know that Catholic Schools in Alberta are publicly funded?

That means, while we have school fees, there is no tuition.

Our Schools offer a faith filled education.

We nourish the whole child, spiritually, socially and academically.

MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION - 403.527.2292 or www.mhcbe.ab.ca

"Showing the Face of Christ to All"



"Serving students in Medicine Hat, Redcliff & Dunmore"

Come, Experience Catholic Schools

All are Welcome!