

## Sample Letter to Your MLA Regarding Education Funding in Alberta

Your address

Date

\_\_\_\_\_, MLA

Constituency Name

Constituency Office Address

Dear MLA \_\_\_\_\_,

- Start by saying one of the following:
  - that as a taxpayer, you believe that the education of the young people of our province needs to be a top funding priority for the government
  - that you believe that the government of Alberta needs to provide adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for the children in all publicly funded schools, without any dependency on fundraising by parents or children
- Note some of the following points:
  - selling chocolates, working casinos, etc., are not meaningful ways for people to be involved in children's education; rather, reading with children, practicing mathematical skills, or discussing homework are areas in which the government should be encouraging parents to contribute to their children's education
  - serving students in a variety of settings, including serving them in an inclusive environment, presents financial challenges to many school boards
  - increasing societal expectations placed on schools and classrooms have had huge financial implications for schools
- Note one or two points that apply directly to your school/school jurisdiction, such as:
  - urban school jurisdictions are faced with unique financial challenges in order to effectively serve proportionally larger populations of immigrant students, students with special learning needs, and First Nation students; urge him/her to request greater provincial funding in order to address these challenges for the children in his/her constituency
  - the cost of operating and maintaining schools has risen considerably in Alberta over the past few years but increases in funding for these have not kept up; this could/already has led to the point where unsafe conditions will arise
  - necessary updates and upgrades to technology are of financial concern
  - a concern related to your own school or jurisdiction
- Close your letter by:
  - saying that you realize that there are many competing demands for government revenue, but that you believe that education needs should be paramount as it is an essential service
  - thanking the MLA for his/her attention to your requests/concerns

Sincerely,