

# Media Release

## ***PSBAA calls for Alberta's Auditor General to review the effectiveness of charter schools***

September 28, 2020 (Edmonton, AB) ... The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) is calling for Alberta's Auditor General to conduct a full review of the educational, administrative and financial benefits of charter schools.

Today, the PSBAA also released a discussion paper entitled *Privatizing Public Choice: the past, present and future of charter schools in Alberta*. The paper was written by Ph.D. candidate Curtis Riep and commissioned by PSBAA.

"Charter schools have not been as effective as originally intended," said PSBAA President Cathy Hogg. "Historically, charter schools were designed to encourage learning innovation that could be developed in a charter school and transferred to the entire public system if successful. There was also a limit on the number of charter schools and the length of time they could operate.

"Efforts to expand charter schools in Alberta follow an American model that has largely resulted in systemic inefficiencies, inequities, and segregation," said Riep. "They also raise the issue of a democratic deficit since these institutions receive public funding, yet are privately managed. And, despite being sold on the idea they will increase parental choice, selection protocols and supplemental fees associated with attending charter schools represent impediments to real choice."

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta is the only provincial association representing and advocating solely for Alberta's public school boards, and public school education in Alberta.

The full report is located [here](#).

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