

Mackinnon Panel recommended government find efficiencies in education funding – PSBAA has already done the homework

September 11, 2019 (Edmonton, AB) ... When it comes to one of the recommendations in the Mackinnon Panel report on K-12 education, the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) has already done the homework. The answer? Look for efficiencies, reduce duplication of services and reallocate scarce resources to our students.

The Panel's Recommendation 6 was "... government completely review and revise its current education funding formula to ensure enrolment growth is addressed and to provide incentives for sharing services and achieving better outcomes for students."

Last year, the PSBAA commissioned a report to identify how to make K-12 education administration in Alberta more efficient. Retired Wild Rose School Division Secretary-Treasurer Gordon Majeran used publicly-available data to determine the Alberta government is paying \$267 million per year to operate five duplicate K-12 school administration systems. Each of these systems runs its own buses, manages schools, teachers and leaders in the same communities and has its own governance boards overseeing all this duplication.

"The PSBAA believes the best way for the Alberta government to make the education system more efficient and create incentives for shared services is to consolidate all of this duplication in administration and services, and redirect those millions of dollars each year to where they actually belong – in the classroom, to benefit students," said PSBAA President Cathy Hogg. "Right now, we have five different school administration systems: public, Catholic, Francophone, charter and private, when one system serving all students would be more than enough.

"The government says it needs to save \$600 million each year for the next four years so it can balance the budget," continued Hogg. "Here's one way to save nearly one-third of those costs: consolidate this wasteful duplication of five different administration systems into one, where all share the costs and benefit from the savings and efficiencies. Students and families will still have the choice of programs they want and need – and in fact they will have more choice, because there will be more dollars going to their programs rather than half-empty buses and multiple governing boards."

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Link to the [Majeran Report](#).