

CASS
October 21, 2011**"Communication works for those who work at it"**

John Powell

Important Dates for School Jurisdictions

- November 1, 2011 — Deadline for requesting new modular classrooms and relocations for 2012/2013
- November 10, 2011 — Zone 6 Consultation and Information Session at Holiday Inn, Lethbridge
- November 14, 2011 — Zone 1 Consultation and Information Session at Holiday Inn, Grande Prairie
- November 14–18, 2011 — Education Week
- November 24, 2011 — Zone 2/3 Consultation and Information Session at Four Points by Sheraton, Edmonton
- November 29, 2011 — Zone 4 Consultation and Information Session at Red Deer Lodge, Red Deer
- November 30, 2011 — 3YEP and AERR are to be posted on jurisdiction websites
- December 1, 2011 — Zone 5 Consultation and Information Session at Rocky View School Division, Airdrie

Action on Inclusion**Working with Stuck Kids – Dr. Gordon Neufeld Workshop**

Educators working with psychologically immature students are invited to attend Dr. Gordon Neufeld's workshop being held November 2–4, 2011 at the Banff Springs Hotel. Dr. Neufeld is a developmental psychologist who consults with parents and professionals regarding children and their problems. More information can be found at www.gordonneufeld.com. To register, contact Karen Slevinsky at Karen.Slevinsky@gov.ab.ca.

For further information, please contact Karen Slevinsky, Senior Manager, School Accreditation and Disputes Resolution Branch at 780-422-0126 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or at Karen.Slevinsky@gov.ab.ca.

Keeping Kids in School and Engaged

School Accreditation and Disputes Resolution Branch is undertaking a two-year research project to provide leadership and support to Alberta Education, stakeholders and school authorities in the area of student engagement and student attendance. Some of the expected results include:

- research and reporting on the local and national education environments with respect to: factors that put students at risk for truancy, factors and characteristics that positively impact student engagement and school attendance, and prevention and early intervention strategies to support student engagement and school attendance
- development and implementation of an action plan to support school authorities as they implement strategies and practices to support and enhance student engagement, reduce and prevent truancy, and identify and intervene with students at risk of truancy
- support to school authorities to implement strategies and practices that impact student engagement and school attendance

- collaboration with branches and project teams within Alberta Education, and establishing and maintaining communication and working relationships with key partners, clients, stakeholders and school authorities.

For further information, please contact Michele Parker, Education Manager, School Accreditation and Disputes Resolution Branch at 780-422-6541 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or at Michele.Parker@gov.ab.ca .

Jurisdiction Work to Inform Implementation of Inclusive Education System

Progress is being made on creating an inclusive education system in which all students are valued to the same degree and all students have the opportunity to succeed to the best of their abilities. Education has committed to supporting all school authorities in the valuable contributions they make as the education system moves to inclusive practices

Each jurisdiction is approaching implementation of an inclusive education system from a different starting point. Some jurisdictions have focused more intently on inclusive practice than others and are further along in their work. Implementing an inclusive education system on a provincial scale requires a change of practice across the system and relies on considerable leadership from school boards, administrators and individual schools. *Action on Inclusion* is about changing the way we approach our collective work. Everyone has something to share, and there will be many opportunities to work collaboratively to support the transformation of the education system.

Education continues to work with its ministry partners and stakeholders to develop a detailed implementation plan, and outline the joint commitment to ensuring coordinated services and supports for our children, youth and their families. Government will continue to collaborate and work together to coordinate better supports and services to ensure student success in an inclusive education system.

For further information, please contact Dianne McConnell, Director, Action on Inclusion, at 780-422-6544 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or at Dianne.McConnell@gov.ab.ca .

“Let’s Talk About the Early Years”

“Let’s Talk About the Early Years” is a major report produced by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. André Corriveau. The primary aim of the report is to bring awareness to new knowledge about early childhood development and what it means for the critical early years in a child’s life. With that in mind, the report is intended to speak to all Albertans with a key message that no matter who we are, where we live, or what we do, we all have a role to play in supporting a positive environment and positive experiences for children in their early years.

The report highlights how critical investment in early childhood development is to enhancing the health and well-being of all children. It emphasizes the importance of looking at all the ways our lives may intersect with young children and their families, and asks what we can do to positively affect the development of healthy minds and healthy bodies; connect young families to the greater community; and increase the resources available to develop Alberta's greatest natural resource - our children.

The “Let’s Talk About the Early Years” report is available on the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health website at www.health.alberta.ca/about/OCMOH-reports.html .

For further information, please contact Gail Campbell, Director, Early Learning Branch at 780-427-1199 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or at Gail.Campbell@gov.ab.ca .

Workshop on Assessment and Teaching Approaches for Children with Deafblindness

Minerva Deaf Research Laboratory, University of Alberta, in partnership with Alberta Education will be hosting a two-day workshop at the University of Alberta on October 17 and October 18, 2011. This workshop will be presented by Dr. Jan Van Dijk, a world renowned expert on children who are deafblind, and those with multiple disabilities.

For more information and registration go to Minerva Deaf Research Laboratory website at <http://mdrl.educ.ualberta.ca/events.html> or Vision Education Alberta at www.vision.alberta.ca.

For further information, please contact Pam Rannelli, Education Manager, Inclusive Learning Supports Branch at 403-662-3636 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or at Pam.Rannelli@gov.ab.ca.

Action on Teaching and Leadership**School Leadership Framework Study**

In support of Alberta Education's School Leadership Framework initiative, an extensive research study on the current state of school leadership in Alberta will be undertaken in October 2011. Representatives of Alberta's education sector stakeholder organizations and institutions, including the Alberta Teachers' Association, have endorsed the study.

The study will collect data on the state of school leadership in order to define possible gaps between the vision of school leadership in Alberta, contained in the draft Alberta School Leadership Framework, and current practice and contexts.

The data will be collected through on-line surveys, telephone interviews and regional focus groups by Leger Marketing. The perceptions of Alberta principals, assistant/vice/associate principals, superintendents and a sample of teachers on various aspects of school leadership in Alberta will be the study focus.

Participation in the study is voluntary and all information collected will be used for research purposes only and will be kept confidential, in accordance with Alberta's *FOIP Act*.

The findings will inform the School Leadership Framework Working Committee (Committee) as it develops an implementation/communication plan for the School Leadership Framework (SLF). It is anticipated that the Committee will be completing its work on the following three SLF elements by spring 2012:

1. Proposed *Professional Practice Competencies for School Leaders*
2. Recommended *Quality Indicators for School Leader Preparation, Induction and Professional Development Programs*
3. Identification of *education stakeholder collective and respective roles and responsibilities for supporting, guiding and directing school leaders*

For further information, please contact Dr. Bob Garneau, Senior Manager, Professional Standards Branch at 780-422-8233 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or at Bob.Garneau@gov.ab.ca.

Operational Information

Submission Dates for Three-Year Capital Plans and Modular Classroom Priorities

The new submission deadline for the 2013-2016 capital plans will be April 2, 2012. Recent changes to the provincial capital planning process require that Education's annual submission be completed sooner. In order to ensure that jurisdiction's capital requests are given careful attention and consideration, Education is implementing an earlier deadline for school jurisdictions to submit their three-year capital plans. This will allow more time for Education's Capital Planning managers to review the submissions, discuss them with the jurisdictions and seek clarification as needed.

The deadline for requesting new modular classrooms and relocations for the 2012/2013 school year will be November 1, 2011. For the past couple of years, modular classroom requests have been submitted in May. However, this does not allow sufficient time for any subsequently approved units to be in place by September. The recent announcement of \$550 million in capital funding for Education includes funding for the modular classroom program for three years, and in order to take best advantage of this, the annual submission of modular classroom requests will now be due in November rather than in the spring. This will allow allocation of the funding much earlier and should make it possible for the units to be ordered, constructed, delivered and set up in time for the start of the following school year.

For further information, please contact Michael Ediger, Director, North Region, Capital Planning at 780-427-2083 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or at Michael.Ediger@gov.ab.ca or Avi Habinski, Director, South Region, Capital Planning at 780 427-2272 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or at Avi.Habinski@gov.ab.ca.

Question from the Field

Q: When can we expect the first payment for the Fuel Price Contingency Program?

A: The first payment for 2011/2012 will be included with your October Funding Framework allocations.

Treasury Board has approved funding for a new Fuel Price Contingency Program, beginning September 2011. This program will provide funding to school jurisdictions and provide cost certainty when fuel prices exceed \$0.60/litre. Based on an estimated average diesel price of \$1.10/litre, this program will provide approximately \$18 million for the 2011/2012 school year.

This program will alleviate the challenges of fuel cost instability, which has posed challenges for many of you since fuel prices escalated last fall. It will also help maintain efficient service and provide for reasonable ride times for students.

For further information, please contact Rick Grebenstein, Senior Transportation Manager, Business Operations and Stakeholder Support at 780-422-6018 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or at Rick.Grebenstein@gov.ab.ca.