



ALBERTA  
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister*

AR109812

MAR 03 2020

Mr. Corey Beck  
Chair  
Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee  
PO Bag 100  
Didsbury AB T0M 0W0

Dear Mr. Beck:

Thank you for your February 7, 2020 letter regarding a resolution passed by the Agricultural Service Board at its January 2020 conference mandating agricultural education in Alberta classrooms.

I believe all Albertans share the same values in wanting a strong, vibrant education system that meets the learning needs of all students and gives them the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful in school, work and life.

As a farmer myself, I am very aware that agriculture is an important part of Alberta's economy, and I appreciate the value of providing students with an understanding of this industry and of its role in food production. Both the current Science and Social Studies Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum provide students opportunities to learn about a wide range of topics, including concepts related to agriculture in Alberta. I have asked my department to explore the possibilities of further enhancement to the curriculum.

Alberta's provincial Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum outlines what students are expected to know, understand and be able to do in each subject and grade. While Alberta Education determines curriculum content, teachers use their professional judgement to determine how students achieve the learning outcomes in the provincial curriculum. School authorities have the autonomy, flexibility and responsibility to determine which supports, resources or programs are most appropriate for their students and school community. This provides Alberta's school jurisdictions with the opportunity to best address the needs of the students and the communities they serve, using the resources available to them.

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In order to ensure students in Alberta receive the best education possible, our government established an independent curriculum advisory panel to provide a new vision for student learning, as well as recommendations on the direction for future Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum. The panel's report is available at [open.alberta.ca/publications/curriculum-advisory-panel-recommendations-on-direction-for-curriculum](http://open.alberta.ca/publications/curriculum-advisory-panel-recommendations-on-direction-for-curriculum), and a link to the draft vision for student learning is available at [www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/educ-draft-ministerial-order.pdf](http://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/educ-draft-ministerial-order.pdf).

The draft vision for student learning emphasizes the knowledge, skills and competencies that students should have when they finish high school. Establishing a new vision for student learning is an important first step in ensuring we take the right approach in updating the provincial curriculum.

Government has engaged with Albertans through an online survey to gather feedback on the panel's draft vision. This feedback, along with the recommendations from the curriculum advisory panel, will help guide our work as we move forward with updating the curriculum.

I hope this information is helpful, and I appreciate you taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adriana LaGrange', written in a cursive style.

Adriana LaGrange  
Minister