

MINISTER OF EDUCATION RESPONDS TO ASBA DIRECTIVES FOR ACTION

The minister of education has provided a written response to the ASBA's directives for action.

The 18 page response is posted on the front page of the ASBA's website at www.asba.ab.ca.

MOVE TO TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS FOR 2005 SURVEY – BID TO IMPROVE RESPONSE RATES

The 2005 ASBA member survey will be conducted via telephone. The goal is to improve response rates and to collect qualitative as well as quantitative data.

Consultant **Ken MacRae** will invite superintendents to gather a team of people for the phone call – so that those who are most familiar with a topic – be it legal services or the ASBA's advocacy initiatives – are on the line to respond.

As well as general questions about member satisfaction with the ASBA, this year's survey will look at satisfaction with the services provided by the ASBA's legal department, labour department and association affairs consultants. School boards will also be asked about member communications and the ASBA's advocacy efforts.

The results of this research will be shared with school boards, the ASBA Board of Directors and association staff. The findings are a central planning tool for the association.

MacRae is currently contacting superintendents to make arrangements for the jurisdiction telephone call.

ASBA NAMES FIVE REPS TO COMMITTEE REVIEWING FUNDING FRAMEWORK

Alberta Education is establishing a committee to consider requests for changes to the new funding framework. The ASBA was invited to appoint the co-chair and four representatives to this committee.

The board of directors appointed ASBA Vice-President **Maureen Emond** (Calgary Catholic School District) to serve as vice-chair.

Svend Hansen, Edmonton Public Schools; **Gordon Dirks**, Calgary Board of Education; **John Lehnert**; Grande Prairie Public School District and **Kelly Hall**, Livingstone Range School Division were also named to the committee, which will include two representatives from the College of Alberta School Superintendents and two representatives from the Association of School Business Officials in Alberta.

WHY HOLD BOARD CHAIRS MEETINGS?

Following up on last year's organizational review, the ASBA Board of Directors set policy clarifying the function and role of board chairs meetings. In broad terms the key elements of the new policy are:

- ❑ board chairs meetings are not decision-making meetings – board chairs meetings are an opportunity for board chairs to provide advice on behalf of their boards to the board of directors
- ❑ the president calls the board chairs meeting (normally after consulting with the board of directors)

- ❑ as board chairs meetings often deal with emergent issues, the policy encourages board chairs to identify alternative methods for gathering input from their boards
- ❑ the board chair or his or her designate is invited to the board chairs meeting. It's up to the board chair if they want to bring the superintendent along.

WHAT'S NEW ONLINE SEE www.asba.ab.ca FOR

- ❑ The **progress report** outlining what the association has done with the initiatives in the ASBA strategic plan is posted.
- ❑ **Forms for 2005 ASBA awards**
Note the **September 23** deadline to nominate people for the Friends of Education Award, an Honorary Life Member Award, a Long Service Award and the Premier's Award. For more information contact **Noreen Pownall** at 1.780.451.7102
- ❑ **Media tips** written with school boards in mind were included in the September edition of the ASBA's *Communications Now* publication.
Note: The ASBA circulates *Communications Now* – a package of communications tips especially for school boards and schools each month. *Communications Now* is e-mailed to jurisdiction office. Contact Kim Ayers kayers@asba.ab.ca for more information.