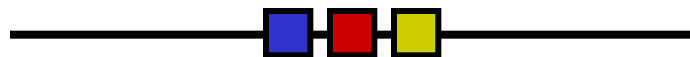


SPC Presentation

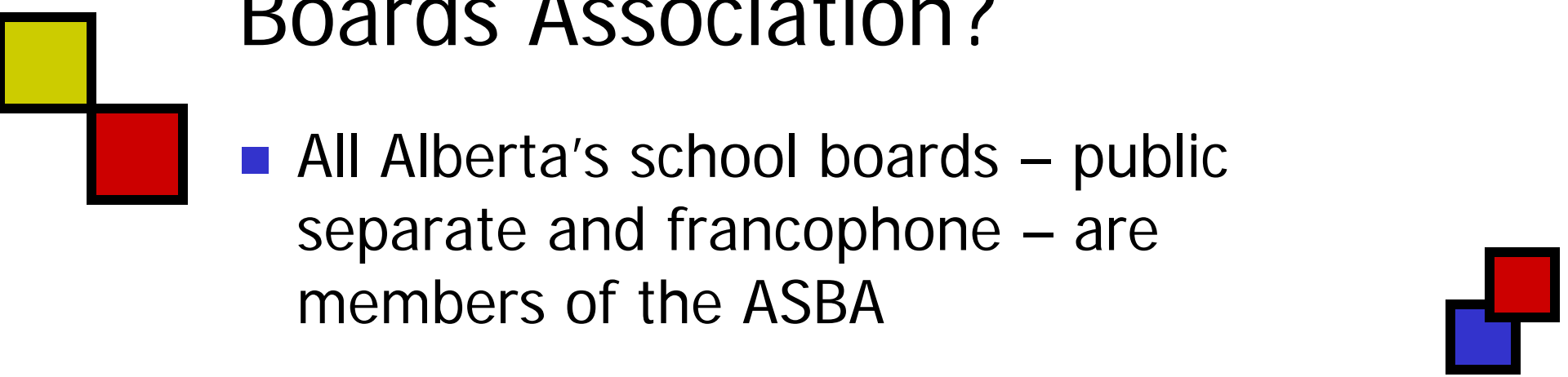
June 24, 2003

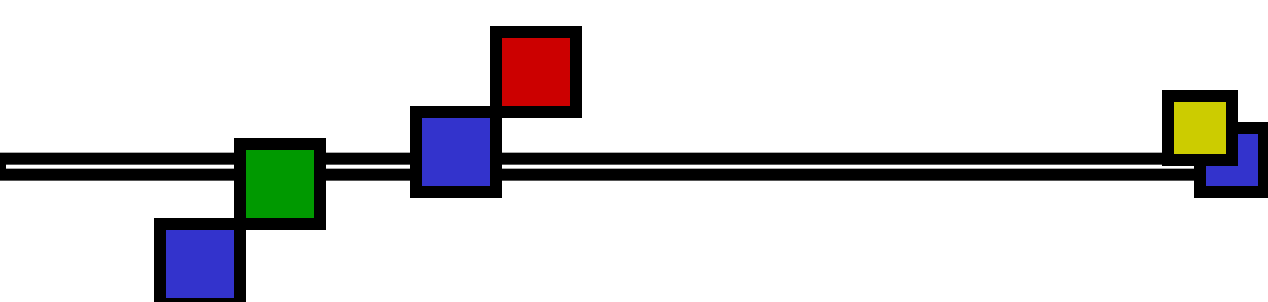



A · S · B · A
Alberta School Boards
Association

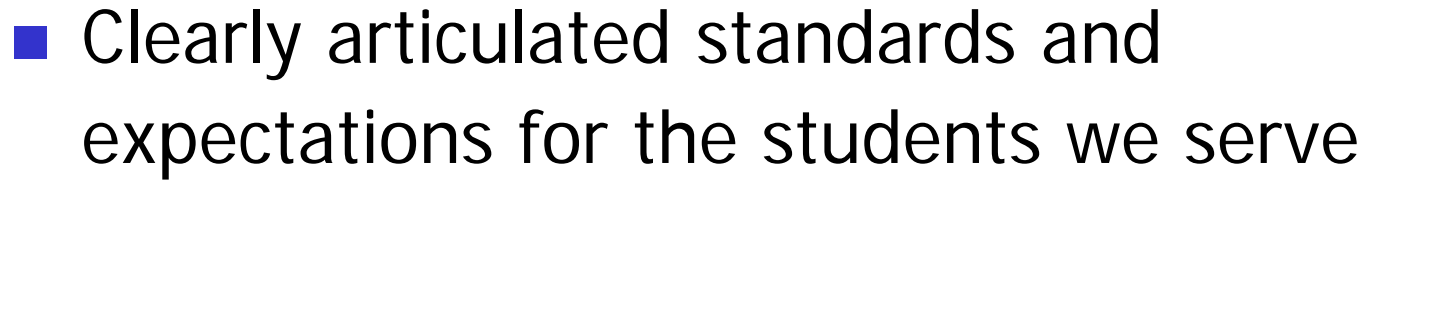


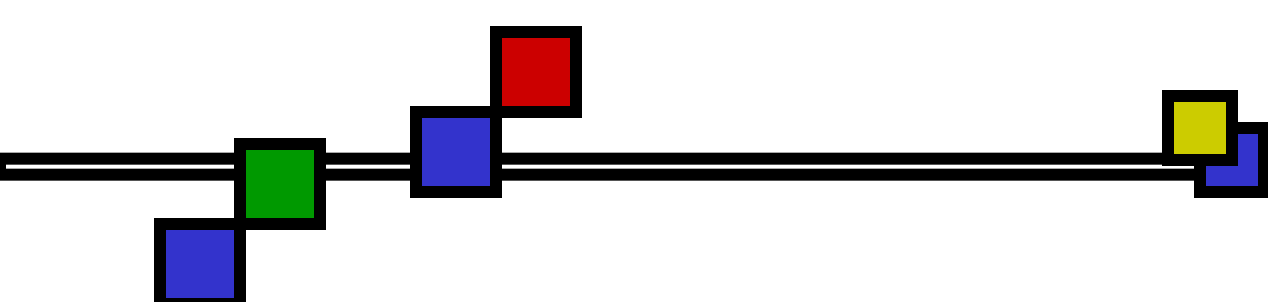
Who is the Alberta School Boards Association?

- All Alberta's school boards – public separate and francophone – are members of the ASBA
 - Service, advocacy and information sharing
- 

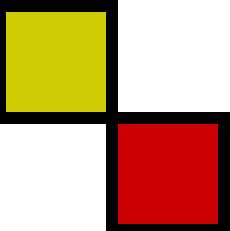
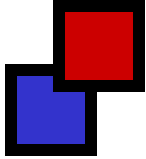


Albertans can be proud of their public education system

- Clearly articulated standards and expectations for the students we serve
 - Outstanding student results as measured by a rigorous system of testing
- 

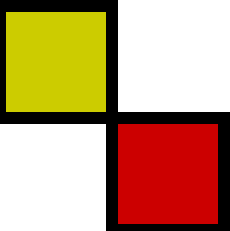


Albertans can be proud of
their public education system

- Strong provincially-developed curriculum
 - A demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement for students—*AISI, Premier's Award for Innovation and Excellence*
- 
- 



Alberta is growing

- 
- In the Calgary Edmonton corridor, GDP per capita is 10 per cent above the average U.S. metropolitan area and 40 per cent above Canadian counterparts

(TD Economics Special Report April 22, 2003)

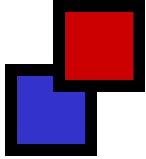




Alberta is growing

- 
- Calgary and Edmonton ranked first and fifth of 25 population centers of more than 100,000 for small business growth
 - Six of the top 10 business growth communities (10,000 to 100,000 population) in Canada are in Alberta

(BMO Financial Group Economic Report June 10, 2003)





Education is key to keeping that growth going -- TD report

- Supporting education and innovation one of keys to keeping fires of growth stoked:

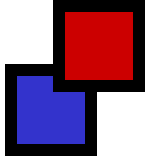
“The Corridor is vulnerable in the all-important areas of education and innovation.”

(TD Economics Special Report April 22, 2003)





Strengths from a business perspective

- 55 per cent of Albertans hold a post-secondary degree, diploma or trade
 - Alberta is home to the most trade apprentices as a share of the working-age population as well as individuals who have participated in job training.
- 



Challenges from a business perspective

- Only 43 per cent of Alberta high school students move on to post-secondary education
- While Alberta high school drop out rates are in decline they are above the national average

(Jan. 2002 Youth in Transition Survey)





Make education a priority say the economists

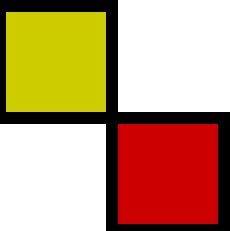
- “Investment in education, training and innovation in the province will be a vital step to enhancing productivity levels right across the Corridor’s economy, and speeding up the economy.”
- “Canadian studies show that the largest public return from education stems from high school completion.”

(TD Economics Special Report April 22, 2003)





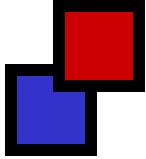
What Albertans are saying?

- 
- 60 per cent of Albertans say funding is not sufficient

Cameron Strategy Inc. (May 30, 2003)

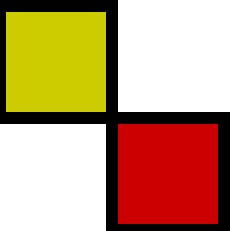
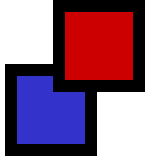
- 76 per cent of Albertans say government is currently spending “not enough” on public education

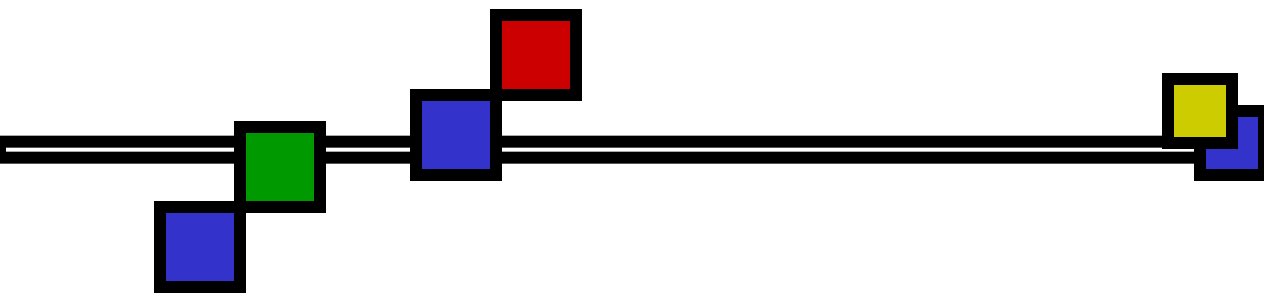
Ipsos Reid (June 5, 2003)





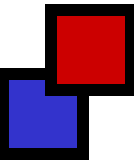
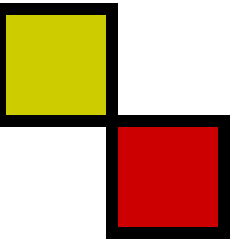
ASBA presentation to the Learning Commission

- Grounded in research
 - Reflects extensive consultation with school boards
 - Focused on improving an excellent public education system
- 
- 



Investment is needed

- \$142.4 million to bridge the gap between funding for teacher salary increases and the raise imposed by the arbitrator
- \$130.4 million to make up the difference between what school boards spend on serving students with special needs and the government funding we get





Doing the arbitration math:



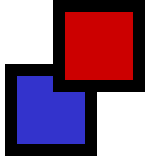
Budget announcement:

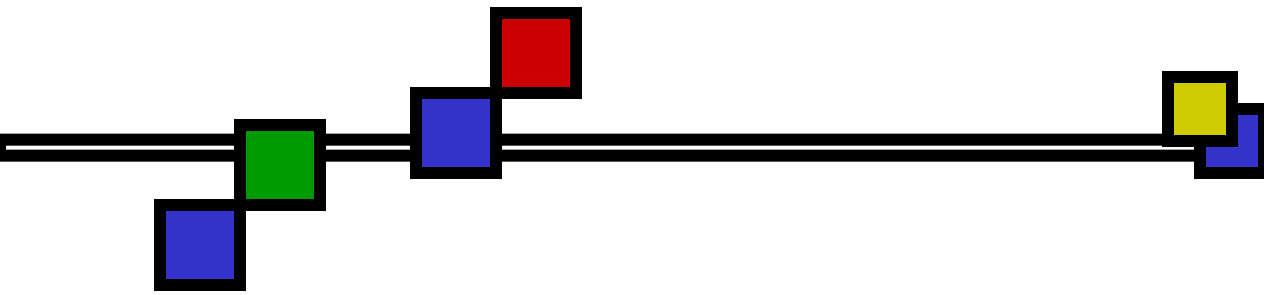
- 4 plus 2 per cent for increases to teacher salaries
- 3.5 plus 3 per cent on local priorities

Arbitrator ruling:

- 14.09 per cent increase in salaries

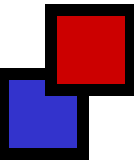
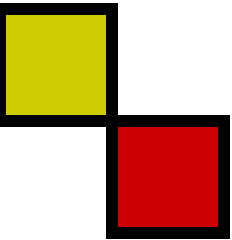
What it means for schools:

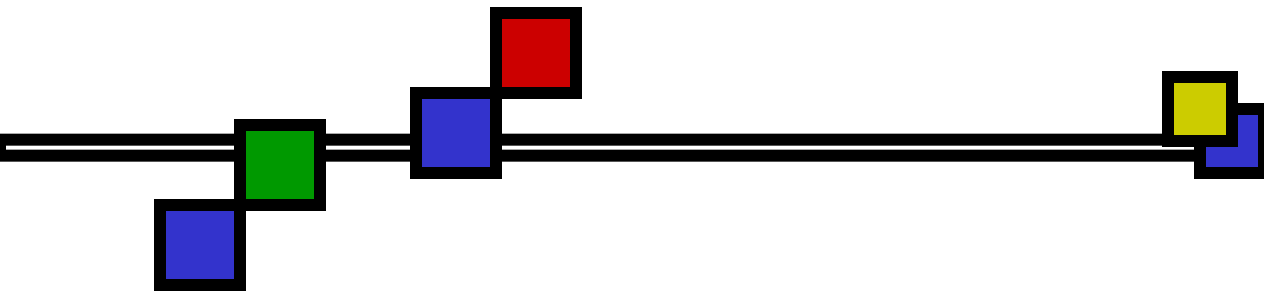
- No money left for local initiatives
let alone to deal with other escalating costs
- 



Investment is needed

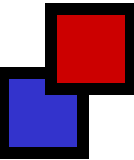
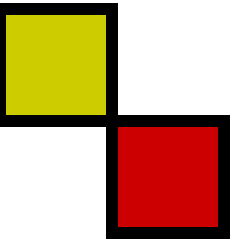
- \$78.5 million to cover the shortfall between what school boards spend on technology for students and the funding the government provides
- \$59.8 million to keep classrooms lit, warm and comfortable for the students who work in them





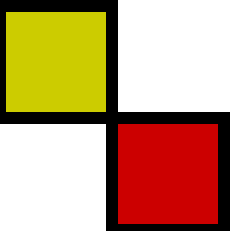
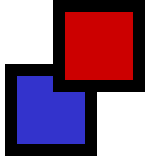
Investment is needed

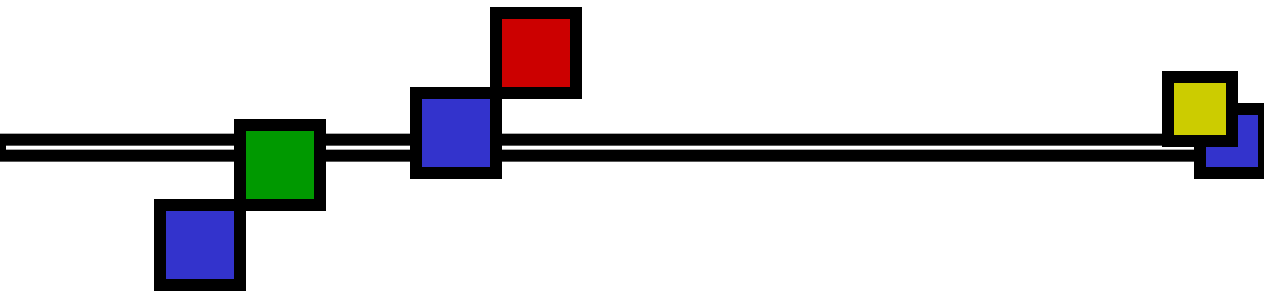
- Address soaring utility costs – shortfall in 2001-2002 alone – \$28.4 million
- Implement the new funding framework – school boards help design it – let's move forward with money to make it work





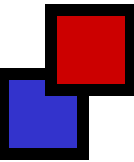
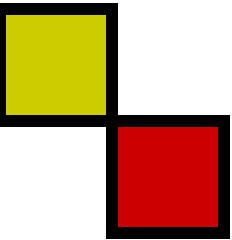
Other recommendations

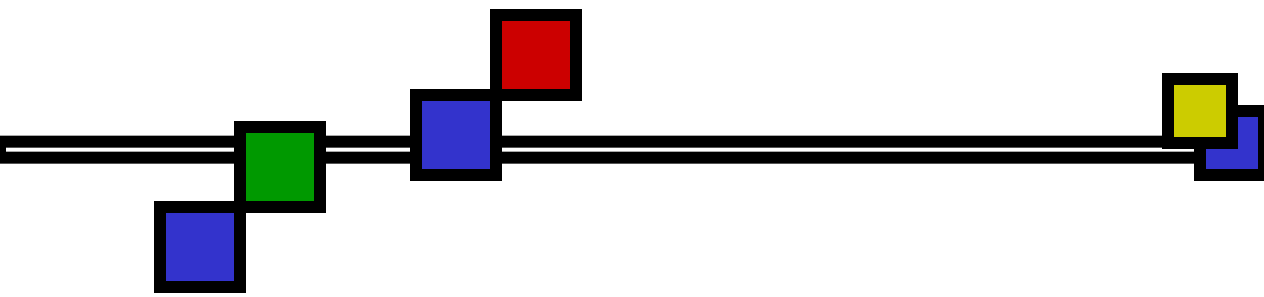
- 
- Give students living in poverty – and facing other challenges – seamless access to the early intervention and out-of-school programs they need to succeed in school
 - Change the School Act so school boards can levy up to 3 per cent of their total budget annually , without a plebiscite.
- 



Other recommendations

- Recognizing the essential role professional teachers fulfill in the public education system, enshrine a full and complete description of the professional role of teachers in legislation.





Education is at a crossroads

- A foundation of excellence and success for students
- Under ongoing financial strain
- A significant investment is needed to carry us forward so we can fulfill our promise and commitment to Alberta's students

