

## **ASBA Board of Directors Special Meeting: Key discussions and decisions**

*This synopsis is provided to support ASBA Directors in reporting to their respective constituencies following a Board of Directors meeting.*

### **ASBA Advocacy Committee and Terms of Reference**

The Board of Directors is committed to emphasizing ASBA's advocacy efforts. As a result, at the December 2018 Board of Directors meeting, the board struck an Advocacy Committee to develop an advocacy strategy. On February 20, the Board of Directors voted to accept the terms of reference and to move forward with the Advocacy Committee's work. More specifically, the Advocacy Committee is currently focusing on two issues: the MELT program (and transportation issues in general); and funding.

### **ASBA Advocacy Committee—MELT**

MELT is an immediate concern and the executive team made a decision for ASBA to take the lead on behalf of ASCA, ASBOA, CASS and the Student Transportation Association of Alberta (STAA) to give a stronger voice to our concerns. ASBA sent a letter to the Ministers of Education; Labour; and Transportation requesting an urgent meeting. ASBA has developed numerous communications materials for ASBA executive and voluntary member use including key messages for rural and urban/metro boards as well as sample news releases. These will be distributed shortly.

### **ASBA Advocacy Committee—funding**

The ASBA Advocacy Committee has created a funding campaign containing numerous communications materials including news releases and key messages. In addition to ASBA use, these materials will also be for voluntary school board use to support local school boards in their own advocacy efforts that are in alignment with ASBA's advocacy plan. Materials will be shared with members February 26.

### **ASBA partnership with Headstrong to host a Youth Mental Health Summit at SGM 2019**

In partnership with Headstrong, ASBA will move forward to host a Youth Mental Health Summit at its SGM 2019. [Headstrong](#) is an evidence-based anti-stigma initiative created by the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC). By collaborating, ASBA and Headstrong can share costs and organizational strengths to organize, promote and deliver a unique set of events focused on mental health. More details will be shared in the coming days and weeks.