

Alex Innes responses

Candidate for School Trustee

Grande Prairie Public School Board

1. I am strongly opposed to the implementation of the proposed draft curriculum as it currently stands. I was briefly an elementary school teacher when I was younger and it is my opinion that the proposed curriculum is not developmentally age-appropriate. It places too much emphasis on rote memorization of random facts rather than teaching children how to learn on their own. It fails to respect the diversity in Alberta or acknowledge the difficult history of our province and country. When 91% of teachers surveyed expressed their displeasure with the curriculum in the spring, it should have been scrapped and restarted immediately. Just today, the ATA has come out with a scathing report on the curriculum. With such an overwhelming consensus among the professionals that we entrust to educate our students, it would be negligent not to listen to them and radically reform the proposed draft curriculum.

2. Public funds should be directed solely to public school districts. Period. Existing charter schools should be folded into the public districts, or privately funded. Covid 19 offers a unique opportunity to increase funding and build resiliency into our infrastructure. Ultimately though, the current UCP government will not make funding public services a priority until sufficient public pressure causes them to do so.

3. Yes. Absolutely. I was an AUPE union steward with Local 118 when I worked for the Government of Alberta roughly a decade ago, and I believe wholeheartedly in a strong, unionized workforce. Our school districts should not be profit centers for private businesses. AUPE members have an advocate and friend in me.

4. Staff that are not worried about their personal financial stability are more capable of doing their jobs to the best of their abilities. I believe that a strong unionized workforce brings consistency and standardized expectations to the job. I support strong unions, living wages, job security and collective bargaining rights.

5. Yes, the current UCP government's anti-union position is abhorrent and never lives up to its stated goals. They take from our trusted public servants to give massive contracts to big businesses, who turn around and hire society's most vulnerable only to treat them with disrespect. This pools finances to the rich and weakens our society as a whole. It is short-sighted, and at very best only results in a small reduction in short-term costs.

6. I support all possible Covid 19 preventative measures including mandatory mask mandates, school-based vaccine clinics, and mandatory vaccinations for staff. Keeping our students and staff safe is my top priority.