



connect | 2015-16 budget on its way

The 2015-16 budget is due to be announced by the Province of Alberta in March, and the Calgary Board of Education is already preparing for it.

Albertans are well aware that this will be a difficult budget for the Province. The government is balancing low revenue projections with many competing interests and values. The Premier and Finance Minister have hard choices to make.

Your Trustees have been hard at work, advocating for our students with the government. We have met with MLAs and the Education Minister to ensure they know the issues the CBE faces. We are funded almost entirely by the Province, so it is important to advocate in this manner.

Our city is growing, as is our student population. More growth means more dollars are needed for our classrooms. The CBE has been challenged for years by funding that has not kept pace with growth and costs.

Facing challenges together

The CBE has had three consecutive years of declines to the overall funding provided per student. Each year we are forced to spread our funding a little thinner across our programs and services.

Our costs continue to increase. We project that we will have three per cent more students next year. Inflation accounts for two per cent of our costs. We are facing continually rising information technology and utility costs. Our insurance costs increased 89 per cent last year. The Province does not fund these cost increases.

Strong student results

Despite these financial challenges, our students continue to excel. We deliver strong outcomes in the CBE, and our academic results are ahead of the provincial average in most areas. We have made it work; we know that the core quality of our teachers,

school leaders and basic resources will continue to sustain learning for most students.

Calgary parents demand choice, access and flexibility, which the CBE strives to provide for our students. The range of needs and complexity presented by the Calgary community continue to be met by a focus on personalizing learning for students. We have been meeting with school councils and hearing how important this is to you.

We will be faced with difficult, challenging decisions. But we will be guided by CBE values as we make them.

- Students come first
- Learning is our central purpose
- Public education serves the common good

We invite you to email us your comments on the budget. Visit www.cbe.ab.ca/budget to access the budget feedback page. You may also follow our advocacy activities at www.cbe.ab.ca/advocacy.

We will continue to work hard for our students and our community. We look forward to engaging with you along the way.

contact | Board of Trustees

We want to hear your ideas or concerns about public education. You can also visit www.cbe.ab.ca to learn more about the Board of Trustees and upcoming public board meetings.

Here are your trustees:

- Joy Bowen-Eyre
- Lynn Ferguson
- Pamela King
- Trina Hurdman
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