



Office of the Minister

AR114263

DEC 14 2020

Ms. Penny Bryden  
President  
Canadian Historical Association  
1912-130 Albert Street  
Ottawa ON K1P 5G4

Dear Ms. Bryden:

Thank you for your November 9, 2020 letter, which you also sent to the Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta, regarding Alberta and Canadian history, including Indigenous history, in Alberta's future Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) curriculum. As Minister of Education, I am pleased to provide you with an update on curriculum development.

As you know, Alberta's government is in the process of renewing the K-12 curriculum. All new curriculum will be aligned with the new Ministerial Order on Student Learning that I announced in early August. The ministerial order sets the vision to guide education and strengthen the K-12 system, and it is available online at [www.alberta.ca/ministerial-order-on-student-learning.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/ministerial-order-on-student-learning.aspx).

I want to assure you that the Alberta government remains committed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada *Calls to Action*. Under the new ministerial order, students will develop an understanding of, and respect for, the histories, contributions and perspectives of Indigenous peoples in Alberta and Canada. This includes understanding our debt to previous generations and our obligations to future generations by learning about treaty rights and the importance of reconciliation. The ministerial order will also ensure students see themselves, their families and their communities in the curriculum.

Renewing the provincial curriculum is a lengthy process. Most recently, Alberta Education has been redrafting the K-6 curriculum to align with the new ministerial order. The updated curriculum will enable students to learn the history of Canada, including Indigenous history, in subjects and grades across K-12. There will be age-appropriate content related to treaties, agreements and residential schools and their legacy—this is non-negotiable.

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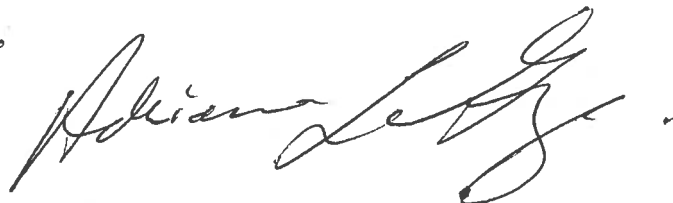
As well, 17 individuals, including four Indigenous elders, are providing advice based on their subject-matter expertise and lived experience in areas such as francophone matters, Indigenous perspectives, literacy, social studies, science, math and financial literacy.

Alberta Education will consider the advice from the 17 individuals. To be clear, their role is only to provide recommendations and advice. They do not hold the pen on curriculum—my department does. More information about curriculum development, including the 17 advisors, can be found at [www.alberta.ca/curriculum-development.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/curriculum-development.aspx).

The draft K-6 curriculum was recently considered by numerous teachers involved in the Curriculum Working Group, which included teachers currently working in schools and Indigenous representatives. In the new year, the draft K-6 curriculum will be released to the public online at [new.learnalberta.ca](http://new.learnalberta.ca) in preparation for classroom validation. Parents, teachers, education partners and interested Albertans will be able to provide feedback during this time. Validation is targeted to begin in participating schools in September 2021, and province-wide K-6 curriculum implementation is planned for the following year.

I appreciate your sharing the concerns of the Canadian Historical Association. Your concerns and comments on how best to educate students about historical events have been shared with Education staff involved in curriculum development.

Sincerely,



Adriana LaGrange  
Minister

cc: Honourable Jason Kenney  
Premier of Alberta