

Rachel Notley. Fighting for you

ATA Red Deer Local #80

1. How would your party ensure that our growing school populations have the resources that they need to be successful?

Rachel Notley and the NDP know that investing in our students is one of the most important investments we can make in our province's future. Over the last four years, the NDP government have invested in our classrooms, hiring an additional 4,000 teachers and support staff by funding enrollment. We also piloted a Classroom Improvement Fund to hire new teachers and put more resources into Alberta's classrooms.

Unlike Jason Kenney, if re-elected we will continue to fund enrollment growth, making sure that when new students show up in our classrooms there are also new teachers to greet them. We are also committed to enhancing and making the Classroom Improvement Fund permanent. This will mean there are teachers in our classroom to meet our growing student population.

2. Please comment on the suitability of current K-12 Education curriculum, and also on your views regarding the need for a modern, updated Program Of Studies.

Rachel Notley and the NDP launched the province's first comprehensive review of the curriculum. Working with tens of thousands of teachers, parents and experts to update the outdated 30-year-old curriculum. This work will make sure that our kids learn the basics and the problem-solving skills they need to be successful in our fast-changing world. We will continue to move forward with the curriculum. As we update the curriculum, we will also need to take a look at how we assess our students. We will work with teachers going forward to determine how to best assess our students.

3. How would your party ensure that vulnerable students, such as gender and sexual minority students, are protected and provided safe spaces in our schools?

We believe that every student at every school has the right to form or to join a Gay Straight Alliance or Queer Straight Alliance, without fear of being outed. Students also deserve a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and nurtures belonging. That is not possible if students are worried about being outed before they are ready.

Rachel Notley and the NDP were proud to introduce An Act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances that strengthened legislation that supports students who wish to create or join gay-straight and queer-straight alliances. This legislation strengthened the Minister's ability

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to ensure every school complies with the law and it protects the privacy of students who join a GSA or QSA. Jason Kenney has promised to repeal these protections and leave students vulnerable to being outed. We believe that building a more inclusive and diverse Alberta is key to bright future and we will keep up that fight.

4. How would your party ensure that individual teachers have autonomy over their own professional development priorities?

Rachel Notley and the NDP government were so proud to sign the updated quality standards for all professional educator roles. These standards recognize the incredible work done by teachers and lay the ground work to continue to improve high-quality education in Alberta's classrooms. The new professional practice standards identify a competency focused on the need for all teachers and leaders to apply foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit for the benefit of all students. This work, developed in conjunction with our education partners will help guide the teacher's professional development going forward and ensure our students get a high quality education.

5. How should teacher salaries be determined? Should teachers have the right to strike?

We believe in the collective bargaining process and the constitutionally protected right to strike.

6. Please comment on the role of school-based administrators (principals, vice-principals, and assistant principals). What are the benefits of including school-based administrators as members of the Alberta Teachers Association (ATA)?

We believe that having principals and vice principals as members of the ATA has been working well. In addition, to freezing education spending, we were also concerned to see Jason Kenney consider splitting the ATA and harming a system that has been working well.

7. Please comment on the efficiency and efficacy of the current model of mandatory standardized testing in Grades 6, 9 and 12, as well as the role of teacher-directed assessment in reporting student's educational progress.

Rachel Notley and the NDP believe that standardized testing can play an important role in assessing students, however, we believe it cannot and should not replace teacher directed assessment. We believe in the professional judgement of teachers to assess their students. As we move forward with the curriculum review, we know that we will need to take a look at the way we are assessing students and we will do that in partnership with our education

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partners.

8. How should students with exceptional needs (academic, linguistic, socio-emotional) be supported within our education system? What specific supports should be in place to ensure their success?

Rachel Notley and the NDP value the work that our teachers do every day to prepare our kids for the future. Rachel Notley and the NDP know that investing in education is one of the most important investments a government can make. That is why the NDP government funded enrollment growth, hiring 4,000 new teachers and support staff. The NDP government also introduced the Classroom Improvement Fund. This fund provided additional teachers and resources for our classrooms to help address increasing complexity.

If re-elected, Rachel Notley and the NDP will not only make the Classroom Improvement Fund permanent, but we will also increase the fund to \$100 million. An NDP government will also continue to fund enrollment growth as 15,000 new students enter our classrooms each year. This funding will provide more resources directly in classrooms to help teachers manage the growing complexity.

In the last four years, Rachel Notley and the NDP introduced a new school nutrition program that serves 30,000 students across the province a healthy meal. This program means that these students can focus on their classes instead of their hunger.

We are proud of the investments we've made in our classrooms over the last four years. We know that there is more work to do and that is why, unlike Jason Kenney who proposes to freeze education spending, we will continue to invest in our teachers and our students.

9. What workplace conditions should be in place to ensure that teachers are able to be at their professional best in facilitating student learning? For example, should caps be placed on the number of instructional (classroom) and assignable (supervision, administrative) hours that can be placed into a teacher's schedule? If so, how should these caps be enforced?

We believe that this type of discussion is appropriate to take place through the collective bargaining process. That being said, our government believes in the importance of investing in our teachers and our classrooms. Over the last four years, we have hired an additional

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4,000 teachers and support staff and we have introduced the classroom improvement fund to put more resources in the classroom. If re-elected, we will keep investing in our education system.