



BYLAW AMENDMENTS ADOPTED BY THE 2005 CONVENTION

(72.9% Support) 1. BE IT RESOLVED that Bylaw No. 3, clause (a) be amended by deleting “\$1,377,490.00”, the total provincial annual core fee requirement, and substituting “\$1,470,024.00”.

Association Executive

Sponsor’s Rationale:

In 2002 the Association Convention adopted the recommendation of the Association Executive to establish a reserve to fund the costs associated with the negotiation of the provincial teacher agreement with the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation. The level of activity associated with these negotiations has increased significantly.

Consequently during the 2004/2005 negotiations the costs for the negotiations exceed the reserve contributions by \$26,000.00. The Association Executive is recommending that the annual contribution from boards of education be increased to ensure that the Association can finance these costs in future years.

The Association has historically provided an economic adjustment to its staff consistent with the economic increases negotiated for teachers in the year following the provincial teacher agreement adjustments. In other words Association staff receive the same increase as teachers a year later. A similar adjustment is provided for Executive member compensation.

The Association expects all staff to engage in professional development activities and provides an allowance for staff to improve their education and training. The allowance provided for office staff employees has not been adjusted in several

years and is now at such a level that many appropriate courses now cost more than the allowance. An increase in these allowances has been included in this budget.

In 2004 the Executive requested an increase equivalent to one half of a solicitor position to address the anticipated demands on the Legal Services Department arising from the restructuring of most boards of education in the province. It is anticipated that this demand on services will return to typical levels in 2006 and therefore the Member Services Fee can be reduced appropriately.

(67.3% Support) 2. BE IT RESOLVED that the following bylaw be added after Bylaw 11:

“Bylaw 11.1

2005 Convention: Voting on governance bylaw amendments and resulting election of members to a newly structured Executive

Notwithstanding the provisions of any other bylaw to the contrary with respect to eligibility to vote, voting on bylaw amendments at the 2005 Association Convention with respect to the adoption of a new Executive structure and consequential matters related thereto, and voting in elections for members of the Executive, if a new Executive structure is adopted, shall be governed as follows:

- (a) All boards of education which are the governing boards of education on January 1, 2006, are deemed to be members of the Association for the purposes of giving effect to this bylaw and any bylaw amendments that may be passed as a result of the authority conferred by this bylaw.**
- (b) Only those boards of education referred to in clause (a) are entitled to vote on bylaw amendments relating to the adoption of a new Executive structure, and related matters, and to vote in the election of members of the Executive if a new Executive structure is adopted.**
- (c) If a new Executive structure is adopted at the 2005 Association Convention, only members of boards of education, which are the governing boards of education on January 1, 2006, who self-declare to be of aboriginal descent, are entitled to vote in the election of the aboriginal representative on the Executive.**
- (d) Voting on bylaw amendments by boards of education referred to in clause (a) with respect to governance changes and election of members of the**

Executive, if bylaw amendments related to new Executive structure are passed, shall be by weighted ballot as follows:

- (i) each board of education is entitled to one vote for every 250 students enrolled in its school division, but in no case shall the number of votes to which a board of education is entitled be less than two; and**
 - (ii) student enrolment, for the purpose of weighted ballots, is the number set out for each of those boards of education in “Appendix #2” of the “Association Governance Changes Report” dated October 3, 2005.**
- (e) The weighted ballot provided for in clause (d) shall be used for any other vote taken within the Association by 2006 boards of education for which a weighted ballot is to be used until the membership adopts another method for the weighting of ballots.**
- (f) The provisions of other bylaws with respect to voting apply with necessary modification and so far as they are not inconsistent with this bylaw or any bylaw amendments that may be passed as a result of the authority conferred by this bylaw.”**

South Central Branch

Sponsor’s Rationale:

The members of the Association, at its Convention in November, 2004, overwhelmingly passed a resolution directing the Association Executive to review the governance and fee structures of the Association in light of amalgamation and prepare a discussion paper for all boards of education by April, 2005, and prepare bylaw amendments for the 2005 annual convention of the Association.

In June, 2005, the Association Executive established a committee of the executive to prepare a report on options for a new governance structure for the Association. The committee reported to the Executive at its September, 2005 meeting, and released the report at the Board Chair forum on September 30, 2005 in Saskatoon. The committee’s report was included in the Branch Council and Branch meeting packages this fall.

In view of the major restructuring of boards of education, which will be fully implemented on January 1, 2006, the direction from the membership in 2004 and what appears, from discussions at the Board Chair forum in September and other discussions, formal and

informal, to be a desire of the membership to adopt a new governance structure for the Association which recognizes the new reality of the Association's membership, the South Central Branch is proposing this bylaw amendment which will confer authority on boards of education, which will be the governing boards of education on January 1, 2006, to be the boards who vote on proposed bylaw changes relating to governance which the South Central Branch is sponsoring at the 2005 Convention. The governance changes proposed at this time address only the Executive structure, and the election to the Executive which takes office immediately at the close of the 2005 Convention. Other matters relating to the Association structure, member linkages and other matters which would require bylaw changes would then be addressed under the leadership of the Executive in its new form through consultation with member boards in 2006 to ensure that the Association structure reflects its members' wishes and needs.

While it is expected that a fair and equitable weighting system for voting will be developed in consultation with members in 2006 along with other governance matters, some method of weighted ballots is necessary if the 2006 boards of education will exercise voting rights at this Convention. Therefore, the South Central Branch has included a simple, yet fair, system of weighting of ballots into this proposed bylaw amendment so that the 2006 boards of education can, if this bylaw amendment passes, proceed to vote on the other proposed bylaw amendments related to governance, and vote in elections of members of the executive, including President and Vice-President. This method of weighting would also be used by members in other cases where a weighted ballot is used in Association business after Convention until the membership adopts a different weighting which would likely occur sometime in 2006 when other governance matters are decided.

(79.4% Support) 3. BE IT RESOLVED that the bylaws of the Association be amended as follows to provide for a new Executive structure and related matters:

1. Bylaw No. 4, "Officers", is amended by deleting clauses (d) to (f) and substituting the following:

“(d) The executive shall consist of:

- (1) a President;**
- (2) a Vice-President;**
- (3) one representative from each of the following constituencies:**
 - (i) northern;**

- (ii) central;**
- (iii) southern;**
- (iv) Catholic;**
- (v) Urban public;**
- (vi) Conseil scolaire fransaskois;**
- (vii) Aboriginal.**

(e) All members of the Executive hold office for a term of one year and shall be elected or selected as follows:

(1) The President shall be elected by a majority of votes cast, by weighted ballot, by member boards of education at the annual convention of the association, and any person who is a member of one of those boards of education for the term of office to be filled is eligible for election, except that a person is not eligible for election to that position for the term immediately following that person's fifth consecutive term as President;

(2) The Vice-President shall be elected by a majority of votes cast, by weighted ballot, by member boards of education at the annual convention of the association, and any person who is a member of one of those boards of education for the term of office to be filled is eligible for election, except that a person is not eligible for election to that position for the term immediately following that person's fifth consecutive term as Vice-President;

(3) The representatives from the constituencies, and an alternate from each constituency, other than the Aboriginal and Conseil scolaire fransaskois constituencies, shall be elected, by weighted ballot, by the boards of education which comprise each constituency at a meeting of the constituency held no earlier than one month prior to the annual convention of the association.

(4) The representative from the Conseil scolaire fransaskois constituency, and an alternate, shall be selected by the Conseil scolaire fransaskois at one of its meetings held no earlier than one month prior to the annual convention of the association.

(5) The representative from the Aboriginal constituency, and an alternate, shall be elected at the annual convention of the Association by persons who are members of boards of education who have identified themselves as being of aboriginal descent. Any member of a board of education who is of aboriginal descent is eligible for election as the representative of the constituency or alternate.

(6) Any person who is a member of a member board of education for the term of office to be filled is eligible for election to the Executive.

(7) Members of the executive assume office immediately following the conclusion of the annual convention of the association.

(8) If a member of the executive, who represents one of the constituencies, ceases to be a member of a board of education during that person's term of office on the executive, the executive shall immediately declare that position to be vacant, and the alternate for that constituency shall fill that position for the remainder of the term, and, if there is no alternate, the executive shall provide for the election or selection, as the case may be, of a representative to fill the position for the remainder of the term.

(9) If a member of the executive vacates office during the term, the alternate for the constituency shall fill the position for the remainder of the term, and, if there is no alternate, the executive shall provide for the election or selection, as the case may be, of a representative from the constituency to fill the position for the remainder of the term.

(10) Notwithstanding subclause (8), if a member of the executive loses re-election or does not seek re-election to a board of education in a general election pursuant to *The Local Government Election Act* held in the fall prior to the annual convention of the association, that member of the executive shall continue in office on the executive until the conclusion of the annual convention in that year.

(11) A board of education may participate in the election of a representative on the executive in only one constituency in a year.

(12) A person who is eligible for election to the Executive is not eligible for nomination for two positions on the Executive at the same time."

2. The following bylaw is added after Bylaw No. 4:

"Bylaw 4.1

2005 Convention: Election of members of newly structured Executive

(a) Notwithstanding Bylaw No. 4, clause (e), for the purposes of election to the Executive which assumes office immediately following the annual convention of the association in November, 2005, the election of representatives and alternates from the constituencies, except for the

Catholic, Conseil scolaire fransaskois and northern constituencies, shall be conducted at the annual convention of the association in November, 2005 at a meeting of each of the constituencies.

- (b) Notwithstanding Bylaw No. 4, clause (e), the representatives already selected by the Catholic section, the Conseil scolaire fransaskois and the Northern branch to serve on the executive which takes office immediately following the annual convention of the association in November, 2005, are deemed to have been elected or selected in accordance with Bylaw No. 4, clause (e) and no election or selection is required in the Catholic, Conseil scolaire fransaskois and northern constituencies at the annual convention in November, 2005.**
- (c) For the purposes of elections and other matters that may arise in relation to constituencies at the annual convention of the association in November, 2005 and thereafter, each constituency, except for the Conseil scolaire fransaskois and the Aboriginal constituencies, is comprised of the following boards of education until such time in 2006 that the bylaws of the Association are amended to provide otherwise:**

(1) northern constituency:

**Northern Lights School Division No. 113
Ile a la Crosse School Division No. 112
Creighton School Division No. 111**

(2) central constituency:

**Englefeld Protestant Separate School Division No. 132
North Central School Division No. 201
Saskatoon District School Division No. 206
Central School Division No. 205
North East School Division No. 200
Battleford District School Division No. 202
North West School Division No. 203**

(3) southern constituency:

**Regina District School Division No. 208
South East School Division No. 209
South Central School Division No. 210
South West School Division No. 211
East Central School Division No. 204
West Central School Division No. 207**

(4) Catholic constituency;

**St. Paul's Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 20
Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81
Prince Albert Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 6
North West Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 16
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 22
East Central Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 212
Holy Family Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 140
Lloydminster Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 89**

(5) Urban Public constituency:

**Regina School Division No. 4
Saskatoon School Division No. 13
Lloydminster School Division No. 99**

(d) Notwithstanding Bylaw No. 10, clause (i), nominations for the offices of president and vice-president at the 2005 annual convention shall be made as soon as practicable following the determination of proposed bylaw amendments with respect to a new Executive structure.”

3. Bylaw No. 5, “Duties of President” is amended by deleting the heading and substituting “Duties of President and Vice-President”, and by deleting clauses (a) and (b), substituting the following:

“(a) The president shall preside at all meetings of the executive and shall open all conventions or other meetings of the association, and shall preside at those meetings until such time as the membership elects or appoints another person to act as chairperson of the meeting. If the president is unable to fulfill those functions, the vice-president shall act in the place of the president.

(b) If the office of the president becomes vacant, the vice-president shall assume the office of president for the remainder of the term, and the office of vice-president shall be assumed by another member of the executive elected by the executive members to serve for the remainder of the term.”

4. Bylaw No. 7, “Branch Structure”, is deleted.

5. Bylaw No. 10, “Conventions and Provincial Assemblies,” is amended by adding “and vice-president” after “president” in clause (i).

South Central Branch

Sponsor's Rationale:

After the discussions at the south central branch council, the south central branch meeting and feedback from the Board Chair forum held on September 30, 2005, the south central branch decided to sponsor this bylaw amendment to make changes to the bylaws to provide for a new executive structure. Elections for positions on the newly structured nine-member executive could occur at convention, and the new executive would take office immediately after the end of convention, which is the commencement of the term of office of executive members in the normal course. The 28 boards of education that govern school divisions on January 1, 2006 would be the boards who elect the executive; the aboriginal members of the 2006 boards would elect the aboriginal representative to the executive. The structure proposed in this bylaw amendment is a variation of option 2(b) as set out in the "Association Governance Changes Report".

The proposed bylaw amendment contains amendments to Association bylaws that deal with executive structure and election to the executive, and contains some transitional provisions to specifically address points necessary to enable the election of members to the new executive structure at this year's convention by 2006 boards of education. In summary:

- Amendments to Bylaw No.4 sets up the structure for the new Executive which reflects what appeared to be a general consensus among trustees at these meetings; that is, to reduce the number of executive members to a nine-member executive. The nine members of the executive would include a president, vice president and one representative from each of 7 constituencies.
- A new Bylaw 4.1 contains necessary transitional provisions to accommodate the election of executive members at the 2005 Convention. Because the new executive will be elected at the same convention at which the bylaw amendments are adopted, it is necessary to specify the boards of education which comprise each constituency, other than the aboriginal constituency, for the purposes of the election. This would remain in place until other aspects of a new Association framework are developed over the course of the next months. The assignment of boards to a constituency almost mirrors Appendix #2 of the "Association Governance Changes Report". This transition bylaw also contains a necessary amendment to Bylaw No. 10, clause (i), regarding the timing of nominations for the office of President for this election only.

Also, because the composition of the Catholic, Conseil scolaire fransaskois and northern constituencies in the proposed structure almost mirrors the current structure in which representation on the executive from the Catholic section, Conseil scolaire fransaskois

and northern branch are elected or selected, this bylaw deems the representative from each, already selected prior to convention, to have been elected in accordance with the bylaw changes to the newly structured executive; that is, no election will be required for those three constituencies at convention if the new structure is adopted.

- Bylaw No. 5 is amended to add the office of vice-president and the duties of the vice-president.
- Bylaw No. 7, “Branch Structure”, should be deleted because the Branch structure does not exist in this new governance model. The concept of a Members’ Council and other aspects of a fully considered new Association structure should be decided during 2006 with input from the membership on what is the best way of seeking input from the membership to the executive. New bylaws dealing with these issues could be brought forward to the membership in 2006 at Convention or another general meeting of members. The role and organization of constituencies will also be developed over the next months.

Why is this important to do now? At the recent meetings the main message was that we should move along and concentrate on issues affecting student learning in our new restructured environment. The proposed bylaw amendment addresses the first step only in the process of developing a new Association structure which reflects the reality and meets the needs of boards of education in 2006 and beyond. The first step is a new executive structure, with members elected by 2006 boards, that can take effect as the term of the current executive ends at the conclusion of this convention. It provides for a smooth transition. The new executive can then move forward immediately to begin to address the other details of the Association structure that will result in a strong, effective membership linkage.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 2005 CONVENTION

2/3 or Greater Support

(95% Support) N-1 BE IT RESOLVED that the Association lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to amend section 349 of *The Education Act, 1995* to change the tendering requirements for making capital expenditures for acquisition of motor vehicles, furniture, etc., from \$20,000.00 to \$50,000.00

Rosetown School Division No. 43

Sponsors' Rationale:

This would accommodate the increase in the number of schools and number of students under the jurisdiction of a board of education due to amalgamation.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(94% Support) D-3 BE IT RESOLVED that the Association lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to amend legislation so that the school division's fiscal year end change from December 31 to June 30 to conform with the school year.

Qu'Appelle Valley School Division No. 139
South Central Branch

Sponsor's Rationale:

This would facilitate the budgeting process and eliminate the school year spanning over two different budget years.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>

(91% Support) N-2 BE IT RESOLVED that the government of Saskatchewan immediately enact legislation establishing an authority to identify those school-aged children (“hidden youth”) who are not registered in any school, and be authorized to use resources and strategies necessary to ensure enrolment and attendance of these children in school.

Prince Albert R.C.S. School Division No. 6

Sponsors’ Rationale:

In a number of Saskatchewan communities there are school-aged children who are not registered in a school. It is estimated that in North Battleford, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon alone, the number of ‘hidden youth’ exceeds 1,500 (from *Role of the School: Final Report*). These youth are at high risk of becoming victims of drug use, alcoholism, gang membership, prostitution and crime. If solutions are not found to address these youth at risk, the cost to our society, both human and financial, will be enormous.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(90% Support) D-6 BE IT RESOLVED that due to declining enrolments, higher operating costs per student and the need for capital and maintenance funds to balance program budgets, the Association lobby the Department of Learning to again explore the feasibility of Life Cycle Facilities Management as identified in the Facilities Restoration Program presented by the Facilities Planning Unit in June 2001.

Northern Branch

Sponsor’s Rationale:

In light of the current declining student enrolments, funding recognition is required to protect or extend life of existing facilities. The objective is to supplement existing maintenance and restoration initiatives with a Facilities Restoration Program for maintenance and repair items between \$10,000.00 and \$100,000. Examples of such projects would evolve around building code upgrades, energy

conservation, handicap accessibility, air quality projects, roof repairs and other emergency repairs.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>

(90% Support D-7) BE IT RESOLVED that the Association petition Saskatchewan Learning to include increased energy costs in recognized per-pupil expenditures.

Northern Branch

Sponsor's Rationale:

Energy costs have risen dramatically over the past several years. Costs have risen for all forms of energy including electricity, propane, fuel oil, and natural gas, impacting on school divisions throughout the province. Recognition of higher costs through a special subsidy could conceivably lead to a one-time payment, failing to address the long-term impact of continued high energy costs. An adjustment to the per-pupil rates would ensure a built in mechanism of cost recognition for the present as well as the future.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>

(90% Support) G-1 BE IT RESOLVED that the Association urge the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina to re-instate their respective Library Science Programs.

Prince Albert R.C.S. School Division No. 6

Sponsor's Rationale:

Resource-based, child-centered learning, using a variety of resources is an integral component of all curricula in Saskatchewan since the release of *Directions* in 1984 by the Department. Teachers need assistance in implementing this approach.

In Saskatchewan, a qualified teacher-librarian is defined as a person who holds a valid Saskatchewan teaching certificate, and has a university major in school librarianship or a degree in library science.

For many years, there have been no courses offered in librarianship at the University of Saskatchewan or the University of Regina. Saskatchewan teachers seeking any kind of training in library related courses must do so outside of Saskatchewan.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(80% Support) D-1 BE IT RESOLVED that the Association lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to amend legislation to provide boards of education with the legislative authority to set the maximum rate of discount that all taxing authorities in a school division could utilize on the school division's portion of the annual levy, as an incentive for prompt payment of property taxes.

Saskatchewan Rivers School Division No. 119

Sponsor's Rationale:

Currently rural municipalities under section 362 of *The Rural Municipalities Act, 1989*, and urban municipalities under subsection 294 (5) of *The Urban Municipalities Act, 1984*, have the exclusive authority to establish, by bylaw, the rate of discounts for prompt payment of tax (this discount applies to school division taxes as well).

The current system is not workable for the following reasons:

- Discounts within a school division can vary significantly (2% to 18%) and change on an annual basis without notification to the school division. This process results in the transfer of taxation from municipalities with a high discount rate to those with a lower one.
- Taxing authorities can challenge the integrity of the taxation system through manipulation of their mill rates and discounts at the expense of the school division. As an example, a taxing

authority can artificially increase its mill rate and offset the same through increases to the discount factor.

- The discount rate in many municipalities far exceeds investment-earning capacity for the value of taxes paid.
- Budget preparation depends upon the integrity of the taxation system.

The restructuring of school divisions will result in newly-created school divisions dealing with 30 to 100 individual taxing authorities. Legislative amendments that are proposed would ensure that the integrity and stability of the taxation system will be enhanced and maintained.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>

(79% Support)J-1 BE IT RESOLVED that the Association lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to require the use of school bus arms in areas where the speed limit is in excess of 40 kilometres per hour.

Qu'Appelle Valley School Division No. 139
South Central Branch

Sponsor's Rationale:

This would standardize bus arm enforcement across the province and help ensure student safety.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(73% Support)A-1 BE IT RESOLVED that the Association lobby the Department of Learning to retain the election of members of local boards and the election of members of any new local school engagement entity in some manner.

Battle River School Division No. 60

Sponsor's Rationale:

It would be unclear whose interests "appointed" members would represent. Appointed members would presumably, expect compensation which would be costly and would erode the spirit of volunteerism which we depend on in our communities. Appointments would be a time-consuming and costly process for the Government to undertake because of the difficulty in finding individuals who wish to serve in that capacity.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESOLUTIONS DEFEATED BY THE 2005 CONVENTION

(47% Support) D-2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Association lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to amend legislation to provide boards of education with the exclusive power of approval for all exemptions from property taxes, including exemptions for economic development purposes.

Saskatchewan Rivers School Division No. 119

Sponsor's Rationale:

Boards of education need to have control over the exemption process whether that is for economic development or other purposes. Not only do exemptions affect the school divisions' tax revenue, they are also part of the Foundation Operating Grant calculations, and affect grant revenue as well. Requiring municipalities to obtain approval of boards of education for all exemptions would provide the tool required to ensure that all exemptions that are bylaw-based would be passed only with the knowledge and approval of the school division.

Secondly, the practice of requiring school divisions to obtain the approval of all taxing authorities in order to approve an exemption request (without adjusting the mill rate in the affected municipality) is impractical from an administrative and governance perspective. Boards of education are not accountable to individual taxing authorities, but are accountable to the electorate of the school division, and provisions such as these promote an authority line that does not exist.

The restructuring of school divisions will result in these divisions dealing with 30 to 100 individual municipalities. The current legislation is impractical and needs to be changed to facilitate the larger school divisions.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>

(44% Support) D-5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Association urge the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately reinstate targeted funding for Comprehensive High Schools to support and develop the offering of practical and applied arts programs beyond the survey level.

Lloydminster School Division No. 99

Sponsor's Rationale:

Up until several years ago, Saskatchewan Learning had recognized the additional costs associated with the operation of a comprehensive high school. Earmarked funds provided additional dollars for the purchase and replacement of equipment in the various practical and applied arts programs. The dollars for comprehensive high schools have since been blended into the Foundation Operating Grant and financial support specific to comprehensive high schools has not been forthcoming from the Province.

Since that time, many schools have shifted from “pure” practical and applied arts programs to “survey” courses where students complete selected modules from a variety of study areas. In part, the move to survey courses attempted to meet the credit requirements for students in rural areas where school size and access to fully equipped labs was limited. In addition, some schools that had traditionally provided a full range of “pure” practical and applied courses have reduced their offerings due to the escalating costs of new and replacement equipment and the materials required whether they be lumber, welding rods, hoists or tools. It has become economically challenging or near impossible to run a “pure” program where students can take Machining 10, 20 and 30, or Automotives 10, 20 and 30 offerings.

As a result, students who have an interest in pursuing postsecondary training in any of the trades are not provided an opportunity to explore these areas beyond an introductory survey level.

Given that the current government has indicated there is a high need for skilled labor and that transition from school to work is a priority for this Province, and that we currently have a number of comprehensive high schools that have the potential to meet this challenge, we would like to move this resolution.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(37% Support) K-1 BE IT RESOLVED that boards of education of school divisions which are comprised of both urban and rural areas be allowed to participate in both the urban public caucus and rural caucus with full voting rights in each except the election of a representative to the Executive.

Sunrise School Division No. 145
South East Branch

Sponsors' Rationale:

Many of the new boards will be a blend of urban and rural areas. The caucuses serve a vital role in identifying issues and concerns specific to their areas. If the newly restructured boards have to choose between the caucuses, they may be unable to participate in discussions and decisions regarding issues that are very relevant to their school division.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>

(36% Support) D-4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Association Executive prepare an information and discussion paper, to be distributed to members no later than mid-June 2006, with respect to the implications for boards of education if legislation were enacted to confer power on boards of education to collect property taxes from their rate payers.

Qu'Appelle Valley School Division No. 139

Sponsor's Rationale:

This would reduce excessive and reverse discount incentives offered by many municipalities which impact tax revenues and the cost of borrowing to boards of education due to the timing of collections.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>

(5% Support) D-4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Association lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to enact legislation to confer power on boards of education to collect property taxes from their rate payers.

Qu'Appelle Valley School Division No. 139

Sponsor's Rationale:

This would reduce excessive and reverse discount incentives offered by many municipalities which impact tax revenues and the cost of borrowing to boards of education due to the timing of collections.

Formal Association Policy

Most Recent Association Position

Consistent with Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with previous position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Inconsistent with Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inconsistent with previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>
No policy statement on this issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	No previous position	<input type="checkbox"/>