



2016 SPRING ASSEMBLY

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

April 15, 2016

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RESOLUTIONS

16-01 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association Executive demand that the Government of Saskatchewan provide adequate mental health support for students in the North.

Northern Lights S.D. No. 113

(Note: This Resolution relates to Position Statement 2.1, 3.1 and 3.3)

Sponsor's Rationale:

The challenges that youth in Northern Saskatchewan face each day has been well documented over many years. We read reports in the news of the alarming suicide rate of Northern youth, the disproportionate rates of poverty, abuse and unemployment, and the low achievement of Northern students in schools. For far too long we have become complacent and accepted this notion of self-destruction of youth in Northern communities, without providing the necessary supports for Northern youth to be successful. In light of recent events in La Loche, we now know that these self-destructive behaviours can lead to violence against others. We can no longer accept the status quo and must expect the appropriate supports for Northern youth. Adequate mental health supports provided by Government are required now.

Cost of resolution:

The cost to SSBA will be limited to advocacy efforts.

Resolution 16-01 Re: Adequate Mental Health support for Students in the North	For: Against:	Spoil: Blank:	CD DEF	%
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16-02 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the SSBA strongly lobby the provincial and federal governments to provide additional one-time funding to those school divisions receiving Syrian refugees and who experienced increased costs to support those students.

Regina S.D. No. 4
Saskatchewan Rivers S.D. No. 119

(Note: This Resolution relates to Position Statement 3.1 and 3.3)

Sponsors' Rationale:

The publicly funded school divisions in the province are welcoming and supportive institutions that are essential to the successful orientation and settlement of refugees. School divisions have a strong desire to fulfill the important role they play in the success of all students and strive to provide the supports necessary in an efficient and effective manner.

The influx of refugees not only provided opportunity for schools to support new Canadians, but also placed additional demands on the limited resources of school divisions. Ministry of Education initial estimates, based on a prediction of receiving approximately 400 Syrian refugee students across the province, indicated the following costs per student:

- \$5,750 for additional teachers, resources and transportation
- \$3,000 for English as a Second Language learners
- \$7,125 for students with complex needs.

These numbers are clearly estimates and actual costs would need to be verified by school divisions and the Ministry, but there is little doubt that school divisions are incurring increased costs. Operation of school divisions is a dynamic business and ebbs and flows of revenues and expenses are expected. However, school divisions that have fixed revenues and that are impacted by the sudden increase in costs as a result of an intentional act of government should be provided additional funding.

While advocacy at both levels of government is called for, SSBA advocacy at the provincial level may also bolster the province's advocacy for increased federal dollars to support the educational needs of our new Canadian families.

Cost of this resolution:

The cost to SSBA will be limited to advocacy efforts.

Resolution 16-02 Re: Interim Funding for Syrian Refugees	For: Against:	Spoil: Blank:	CD DEF	%
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16-03 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate to the Government of Saskatchewan to officially recognize September 30th as “Orange Shirt Day”. This day is to recognize the harm of the Indian Residential School System did to the children’s sense of self-esteem and well-being and is an affirmation of the province’s commitment to ensure that “Every Child Matters”.

Aboriginal Constituency

(Note: This Resolution relates to Position Statement 5.1)

(Note: this Resolution relates to Vision 2025 Strategic Themes “Engagement at all Levels”, “Courageous Leadership” and “Alignment at all Levels”).

Sponsor’s Rationale:

Orange Shirt Day is a movement that officially began in 2013 but in reality it began in 1973 when six year old Phyllis Webstad entered the St. Joseph Mission Residential School, outside of Williams Lake, BC. Young Phyllis was wearing a brand new orange shirt for her first day of school – new clothes being a rare and wonderful thing for a First Nation girl growing up in her grandmother’s care - but the Mission staff quickly stripped her of her new shirt and replaced it with the school’s institutional uniform.

While she only attended for one year the impact affected Ms. Webstad’s life for many years. “I finally get it, that feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years. Even now, when I know nothing could be further than the truth, I still sometimes feel that I don’t matter.”

Ms. Webstad’s story is the nucleus for what has become a national movement to recognize the experience of survivors of Indian Residential Schools, honour them, and show a collective commitment to ensure that “every child matters”. This initiative calls for every Canadian to wear an orange shirt on September 30 in the spirit of healing and reconciliation.

September 30 was chosen because that was the time of the year the trucks and buses would enter the communities to “collect” the children and deliver them to their harsh new reality of cultural assimilation, mental, sexual and physical abuse, shame and deprivation. The day also provides the opportunity for schools/divisions to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the year, and keep the discussion about the history of Residential schools occurring, annually. First Nations, local governments, schools and community agencies can come together in the spirit of reconciliation and showcase their commitment that “Every Child Matters”.

Cost of this resolution:

Each school/division will be responsible to expenses incurred for the purchase of orange t-shirts for students/staff.

SSBA website will provide a list of vendors, where orange t-shirts could be purchased.

Resolution 16-03 Re: Orange Shirt Day	For: Against:	Spoil: Blank:	CD DEF	%
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