



Ward D Newsletter Special Issue

Hello Ward D Community!

I'm reaching out with an important update regarding two recently introduced provincial bills that may have significant impacts on public education in Edmonton and across Alberta.

Last week in the Alberta Legislature, two pieces of legislation were introduced that are intended to come into force as early as September 1:

- On March 31, Bill 25: An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act, was introduced by Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides.
- On April 2, Bill 28 was introduced by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Williams.

In this special issue, I want to help you understand the proposed changes, what they may mean in practice, and how you can stay informed and engaged.

The Board of Trustees' initial response:

On April 1, The Board of Trustees have issued a statement on Bill 25, posted on the epsb [website](#) and noted below:

Yesterday, the Minister of Education and Childcare introduced Bill 25, which proposes extensive changes to the Education Act. Although we are still awaiting more information, it's clear that these changes will have a significant impact on classroom learning, school operations and our roles as Trustees.

As locally elected representatives of our communities, we act as a bridge between the provincial government and the families we serve. We believe that listening to diverse perspectives and local voices is the foundation for a strong public education system, and we are deeply committed to centring those voices in every decision we make.

Our focus remains on advocating for public education. School boards need predictable funding to build and modernize schools, to support diverse student needs in the face of increasing classroom complexity and to provide safe learning environments where all students and staff can succeed and belong.



What's in Bill 25?

Bill 25 outlines significant changes that would affect local decision-making and how students, families, and communities experience schools.

In more practical, day-to-day terms, proposed changes include:

- Changing language in the Education Act from “welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and nurture a sense of belonging” to “a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours”
- Introducing requirements around “neutrality” or “unbiased perspectives” in the delivery of education programming
- Expanding formal parent involvement to non-instructional school activities
- Requiring ministerial approval of superintendent hiring contracts
- Prohibiting school boards from taking positions on political, social, or ideological topics deemed outside their role
- Allowing the provincial government to name new schools
- Setting rules around flags displayed at schools
- Requiring surplus school sites to be offered to the Government of Alberta, with future use determined provincially

What is in Bill 28?

While broader in scope, Bill 28 includes a key change that intersect with education:

- Municipal reserve land could be opened for use by charter schools



Why this matters

These proposed changes may affect:

- The role of locally elected trustees and community voice in education
- How school divisions make decisions
- How schools create inclusive, supportive learning environments
- Access to land and space for public versus charter schools

As your trustee, my priority is ensuring that public education remains responsive to the needs of our students, families, and communities.

Stay informed and get involved

I encourage you to take time to learn about these proposals and consider their impact. You can:

- Share your feedback with me
- Reach out to your MLA and City Councillor
- Talk with others in your school community

If you're unsure who your elected representatives are, I'm happy to help connect you.

Join the conversation

I will also be hosting informal drop-in conversations to hear directly from you:

Felice Cafe

Wednesday, April 8

6:30–8:00 PM

Please feel free to stop by, ask questions, and share your thoughts.

Thank you for staying engaged and for your continued support of public education in Ward D.

Warmly,

Nickela Anderson

Trustee, Ward D