

**Elk Island Public Schools
Trustee Report
Ray Welsh**

October, 2009

1. Stop the Cuts-

Responding to anticipated cuts of \$340 million or more to the 2010 education budget, the provincial associations representing Alberta parents, teachers and school boards officially launched a six-week media campaign aimed at protecting funding for public education. The *Stop the Cuts* campaign uses various advertising media to invite Albertans to visit a website where they can efficiently contact MLAs, the minister of education and the premier to voice their support for investments in education. This campaign will continue through to November 22, covering the period when MLAs are returning to the legislature and budget decisions are being made within government. Albertans need to ensure their voices are heard by visiting www.stopthecuts.ca and sending a message to their MLAs.

2. H1N1 Pandemic –

The health and safety of students and staff is our top priority. In light of the current H1N1 virus pandemic, we are taking appropriate steps and working with government and health agencies to monitor the outbreak and to implement appropriate protocols. School principals have been provided with a Division Pandemic Plan and Flu Surveillance Protocol. Aligned with Alberta Health Services recommendation, EIPS has not cancelled or suspended any school activities. Should circumstances change, we are prepared to carry out our emergency response plan.

3. New Cosmetology Labs –

Approval was given for construction of new cosmetology labs in Lamont and Fort Saskatchewan High Schools. The construction of these labs is funded by

Provincial CTS grants announced prior to recent cutbacks in provincial funding. These labs will enhance and promote high school completion rates at these two high schools.

4. Modular Classrooms – Lakeland Ridge

Approval was given for the construction of two temporary modular classrooms to be erected at Lakeland school to accommodate significant overcrowding at this school. Continued efforts will be made to secure Provincial government approval and funding for a new elementary school to be located between Highway 16 and Baseline Road in Sherwood Park.

5. Elk Island Student Achievement Results

Elk Island Public Schools continue to excel at all levels and subject areas in Grade 3,6,and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests. Results at all levels surpassed provincial averages.

6. Elk Island Diploma Exam Results

Elk Island Public Schools continue to surpass Provincial results in attaining an Acceptable level of achievement on all diploma exams written in June 2009. Continued efforts are being focused on improving achievement at the Level of Excellence which has declined somewhat in recent years. V.C.H.S. results, however, at the level of excellence surpass the provincial average and other Elk Island results. V.C.H.S. staff and students are to be commended on their continued superior performance on these exams.