



## Board of Trustees

1221 – 8 Street SW Calgary, AB T2R 0L4 | t | 403-817-7933 | f | 403-294-8282 | www.cbe.ab.ca

www.cbe.ab.ca

### Board Chair

Joy Bowen-Eyre Wards 1 & 2

### Vice-Chair

Amber Stewart Wards 12 & 14

### Trustees

Lynn Ferguson Wards 3 & 4

Pamela King Wards 5 & 10

Trina Hurdman Wards 6 & 7

Judy Hehr Wards 8 & 9

Julie Hrdlicka Wards 11 & 13

May 5, 2016

Mr. Kevin Waugh, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1A 0A6

### Re: Private Member's Bill C-241: An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities)

Dear Mr. Kevin Waugh:

On behalf of the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) I would like to express our support for private member's bill C-241: An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities).

In fiscal year 2014-15, the CBE paid a total of \$11,257,122 in goods and services tax (GST) and received a federal rebate of \$7,654,843. The CBE was required to fund the remaining \$3,602,279 out of our general education revenues. We would greatly appreciate an increase in the rebate rate so that we can maximize the funds available to provide students with the best learning environment possible. To put this into perspective, \$3.6 million is equivalent to the entire operating costs of one of our large elementary schools for 600 students.

As one of the largest school boards in Canada, the CBE offers a wide variety of programs and supports to meet the unique learning needs and interests of all learners in an increasingly diverse population. Since 2009, our revenues have not kept pace with growth and inflationary pressures which means that we are constantly attempting to do more with less. Our core values are that students come first, learning is our central purpose and that education serves the common good. Our mission is to ensure that each student, in keeping with his or her individual abilities and gifts, will complete high school with a foundation of learning necessary to thrive in life, work and continued learning. We would welcome the support of all Members of Parliament in helping us to achieve this goal through their support of Bill C-241.

Yours sincerely,

Joy Bowen-Eyre, Chair  
Board of Trustees  
Calgary Board of Education

cc: All Calgary MPs