

March 12, 2021

Dr. Vivian Abboud, Chief Executive Officer
Alberta School Boards Association
1200, 9925, 109 Street
Edmonton AB T5K 2J8

Dear Dr. Abboud:

**Subject: TDM, TCM, TMB, and DB - Public Fatality Inquiry
Response to Recommendation**

Please find enclosed a copy of the Honourable Judge J.E. Schaffter's three reports to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General for the deaths of the above-noted four young persons. This report will be publicly released on April 2, 2021.

The following recommendation made by Judge Schaffter may impact Alberta School Boards Association:

- Each of the four youths reviewed, experienced school attendance issues and some were expelled at various times for truancy. A greater understanding of the effects of trauma and resulting behaviors, by teachers, school administrators, counsellors is imperative. Interventions in the past have been about consequences, limit setting and punishments as opposed to root causes and developing of individual supports. The Office of the Student Attendance and Re-engagement has now been created (which was not in existence when these youths were attending school) to approach truancy using restorative principles; engaging family, student, supports. **School Administrators should be strongly encouraged to use the services of the Office of Student Attendance and Re-engagement when attendance issues first arise with a youth and prior to proceeding to suspension or expulsion.**

I ask that you please advise the following:

- a) Whether Alberta School Boards Association accepts, accepts in principle, does not accept, or has a different response to the recommendation;
- b) A brief explanation of why that decision was made; and

c) If Alberta School Boards Association intends to accept the recommendation, or to implement different measures, what steps will be taken in that regard.

A response to this enquiry is not mandatory. However, please be advised that any response received will be publicly released and posted on the Open Government Portal:

<https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/responses-to-public-fatality-inquiry-recommendations>.

If a response has not been received by August 3, 2021 (four months from the public release date) that information will also be made publicly available.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours truly,

Original Signed

Abid Mavani
Fatality Inquiry Coordinator

Enclosures