



February 28, 2018

Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen
Suite 1600, 520 – 5 Ave S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 3R7

Attention: Kelly Pypers

Dear Mr. Pypers,

I am writing in response to the letter you wrote on behalf of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen (CAPL). There were two primary concerns outlined in your letter. The first was a concern that the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) sponsored and used public funds for David Suzuki as a keynote speaker at the Teachers' Convention in February 2018. Secondly you expressed concern that the curriculum taught in the CBE does not reflect a balanced perspective regarding the energy industry, sustainability and the environment.

I will address the Teachers' Convention concern first. The CBE does not have a role in the Calgary City Teachers' Convention. This annual Convention is facilitated by the Alberta Teachers' Association. While the Convention is attended by teachers in the CBE, teachers from the Calgary Catholic School District, private and charter schools in the city also attend. The Convention is funded by teacher membership fees. The CBE as an organization does not have a role in financing or facilitating the Convention.

You also expressed a concern that the curriculum taught to students in the CBE is biased and does not accurately reflect a balanced perspective of the energy industry. The curriculum, known as the Programs of Study, is determined by Alberta Education. Every publicly funded jurisdiction including private and charter schools are required by the legislation, the *School Act*, to teach the Programs of Study as outlined by Alberta Education. The CBE is obligated to teach the provincial curriculum. The current Program of Study for science K-6 was implemented in 1996; 7-9 was implemented in 2003; and, high school science courses were updated in 2014. You might be interested to know that currently the Province is revising the curriculum and has invited all Albertans to provide input.

Your letter also implied that the CBE was not supportive of the energy industry that is important in the livelihood of many Calgary families. In fact, the CBE has many valued partnerships with the energy industry and related organizations. This includes partnerships with SAIT so that students can experience related energy careers prior to graduation from high school. We receive many valuable contributions from the energy industry each year, and we recognize those partnerships publicly at regular board meetings through

our Lighthouse Award. Energy recipients since 2009-10 include Chevron, Husky Energy, ConocoPhillips Canada and BP's "A+ for Energy" program.

In 2013, the CBE was asked by Alberta Education to provide guidance for a redesign of the curriculum. Although the curriculum prototype was not ultimately adopted by Alberta Education, the process of developing the curriculum by the CBE involved multiple stakeholders including representation from the energy industry.

The CBE has over 120,000 students with approximately 10,000 graduates annually. We are proud of our graduates including the many students who enter your profession and many others within the energy industry. Your industry is important to Alberta, to Canada and to our students.

I note in your letter that you waived privilege and I have assumed that your letter has been shared with your membership. I would expect that you would also provide my response to your membership to ensure they have an accurate understanding of the issues you raise.

Sincerely,



David Stevenson
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cc Board of Trustees, Calgary Board of Education
Area Offices, Calgary Board of Education
Larry Buzan, President, CAPL