



The following are the responses to the Parents for Choice Education Trustee Candidate Questionnaire provided by **Murray Hollman, candidate for Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division, Sub-jurisdiction Red Deer / Blackfalds**, submitted at 9/27/2021 20:10:50

The long form answers are on the last page of this pdf.

*\*The candidate's responses, including name and comments, are presented below precisely as the candidate entered them on the questionnaire form. If you have questions about these responses, please mail them to Murray Hollman at [mphollman@gmail.com](mailto:mphollman@gmail.com)*

The response was “**Yes**” to the following question:

1. Do you agree that all education laws, school board policies and best practices in Alberta should comply with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Family Law Act when it comes to the right of parents to direct, and be fully informed about, all aspects of their children's education?

The response was “**Yes**” to the following question:

2. Do you support subsidiarity - the idea that distant levels of government should not make decisions that are best understood and resolved at the local level?

The response was “**Yes**” to the following question:

3. Do you agree parents should be permitted to choose the location, type and style of education (i.e. home-based, language, interest, faith-based, etc.) that best suits their child, free of bureaucratic, union or government coercion?

The response was “**Yes**” to the following question:

4. Do you agree that the Alberta government should provide equitable funding to all education settings, whether public, Catholic, francophone, independent, faith-based, charter, alternative and supervised home education?

The response was “**Yes**” to the following question:

5. Do you agree that the Alberta curriculum should leave room for chosen educational interests - such as history, faith, the arts, sport, language, or STEM for example - and refrain from prescribing excessive content which unduly crowds out local thematic interests?

The response was “**Yes**” to the following question:

6. Do you agree that curriculum development must be transparent and focused on clearly defined and foundational basic skill and knowledge outcomes in core subject areas?

The response was “**Somewhat**” to the following question:

7. Do you agree with providing a system of high-quality standardized testing based on specific scholastic skills and knowledge outcomes, created by independent testing organizations? Examples might include the Canadian Test for Basic Skills or international tests such as the PISA.

The response was “**Somewhat**” to the following question:

8. When it comes to communicating student progress for Grades 7-12, would you agree that an objective and clear reporting system of percentages and class averages (as opposed to descriptive terms only) is important?

The response was “**Somewhat**” to the following question:

9. Do you agree that any school board policy that forces teachers to keep secrets from parents is unacceptable, and if elected would you move to repeal any such policies? For example, the NDP government in 2017 forced boards to pass a policy regarding certain student clubs that said “notification, if any, respecting a voluntary student organization [...] is limited to the fact of the establishment of the organization or the holding of the activity.”

The response was “**Yes**” to the following question:

10. Currently, provincial legislation requires that parents be provided notice when a program of study includes subject-matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion or human sexuality (Education Act - Section 58.1). Do you agree that this notice and opt-out opportunity should continue to be provided?

The response was “**Yes**” to the following question:

11. Do you agree that a parent's legislated right to be informed of and allowed to opt out of material primarily and explicitly of a sexual or religious nature should be construed by the Board to extend to the use of sexual or religious instructional resources and online portals used across subject areas, such as the Prism toolkit?

The response was “**Yes**” to the following question:

12. Do you agree that every school board should establish a procedure for vetting and obtaining parental consent when it comes to individual external facilitators accessing students during both instructional and non-instructional time?

Murray Hollman's added comments:

7) I believe that some standardized tests (ie PISA) have a place to help further our students education, however standardized testing for everyone (ie PAT's) are stress inducing for students/teachers/parents, and do not provide any data that helps further our students education.

8) Both descriptive terms AND percentage based reporting have a place in assessment. It is important that parents/students have an understanding of their achievement, but it is equally important that they have an understanding of what the achievement is.

9) I have always believed that teachers have the best interests of their students in mind. They know best if the situation should be shared with parents/guardians, or if the potential issues at home may create more stress and anxiety for the student. Unfortunately, school boards must follow the legislation that has been put into place.