



2017 Public Interest Award Winner - Southern Alberta  
Nominated by Harold Neth, Education Task Force Chair

## **Support Our Students Alberta**

Support Our Students grew out of parents talking on playgrounds and sharing their experiences with the chronic underfunding of public education in Alberta. SOS “. . . believe[s] in a public education system that is fair and equitable to all Albertan children. A public system where funding keeps pace with growth and every student is supported in a healthy and secure learning environment.”

The Executive Committee is made of three very energetic and knowledgeable women who are engaged in advocating for policy change that supports students in Alberta’s public systems. Carolyn Blasetti is the Executive Director. Barbara Silva is the Communication Director, and Elsa Campos is the Research Director.

SOS is a dynamo that maintains a website, posts blogs, produced two videos on education in Alberta, promotes other productions like Backpack Full of Cash (a critique on private school funding), writes articles for magazines and newspapers, provides interviews with media, does public speaking, participates in advocacy with other groups like Public Interest Alberta, and maintains a constant presence on social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. They fund-raise for SOS and, most importantly, raise their own children beyond looking out for the welfare of all children.

Most recently, they have taken very active roles supporting kids and GSAs and in the Defund Private Schools campaign. They have challenged people on social media around the topic as well as presented at various public engagements including doing traditional media interviews.

SOS is most deserving of the Public Interest Alberta Public Interest Award for 2016-2017. We wish them continued success in advocating for Alberta’s students and public school systems.