



## Save Our Fine Arts (SOFA)

- Save Our Fine Arts is a fine arts education advocacy group that was established in response to the release of the Alberta Education curriculum framework draft document “K-12 Arts Education Framework” in September, 2009. The SOFA committee was formed with the goal of increasing awareness about the draft framework and its potential negative impact on Fine Arts Education as well as promoting public feedback to Alberta Education and elected officials. Our organization is made up of over 7000 committed parents, educators, students, artists, business leaders and other concerned individuals from across Alberta and western Canada who believe strongly in the value of fine arts education for all K-12 students.
- The Government of Alberta will soon introduce significant revisions to the School Act following an unprecedented level of public engagement through the Inspiring Education strategy and the Inspiring Action discussion paper. In this discussion paper, the Minister of Education, Dave Hancock, states, “... we will need each and every Albertan to play a part in building a bright future for our children. This begins with education and we must do everything we can to ensure that each and every child has the opportunity to maximize their potential – to be able to grow up equipped to take care of themselves and their families and contribute to their communities. Alberta’s future depends on a well-educated population capable of competing with the world.”
- Research has shown that involvement in the arts is associated with gains in math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skills. Arts learning also plays a significant role in improving motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork.
- SOFA believes that **“Now Is the time to become engaged”** in the dialogue surrounding the future of fine arts education and what it will look like in the new curriculum. SOFA’s mission is to participate in the preservation, expansion and promotion of excellence in fine arts within our schools.
- SOFA’S objectives are to support and advocate for the implementation of a quality fine arts curriculum within our schools. This requires adequate facilities and timetabling as well as teachers qualified as specialists in visual arts, dance, drama and music who understand the incredible value that fine arts can have on the lives of students and the future vibrancy of Alberta.
- SOFA has been and will continue to work in a collaborative and supportive way with government and school officials as they move forward in designing and implementing the new curriculum. For further information about SOFA please visit our website at [www.SaveOurFineArts.com](http://www.SaveOurFineArts.com) where you can register online to show your support and receive regular updates.

**A grounding in the arts will help our children to see; to bring a uniquely human perspective to science and technology. In short, it will help them as they grow smarter to also grow wiser.**

~ Robert E. Allen, Chairman and CEO, AT&T Corporation

Interested in following us? If so, check out our website at [www.saveourfinearts.ca](http://www.saveourfinearts.ca), or our Facebook site at **Save Our Fine Arts**. You can also follow us on Twitter at **@SOFAalberta**. Join in on the conversation on Twitter at the hashtag **#SOFAB**.