



Dear members of the Save Our Fine Arts Committee,

Thank you for sending in your questionnaire. I'm more than happy to take the opportunity to respond to your questions and address the concerns you raise.

**1. What is your vision for fine arts education in Alberta?**

The fine arts are a key part of our children's education, just as important as math, science and language arts. Creativity is more important in the job market than ever before and I believe that exposure to the arts is the best way for children to develop this ability. Unlike any other subject, fine arts encourages students to explore their creative urges, stretch their limits and articulate their innermost visions without reference to any external authority — basic training for innovators and freethinkers.

**2. How do you see fine arts fitting within the education system?**

I see fine arts as being a major part of Alberta's school system. Only by learning to notice and appreciate the beauty in the world will students be motivated to protect and add to it. I believe this is a grossly undervalued skill.

**3. Do you support the Inspiring Action Initiative that was introduced by Minister Hancock? Please explain why/why not.**

I do support Minister Hancock's *Inspiring Action Initiative*. Alberta faces unprecedented challenges in the near-future including a massive wave of retirements, intense pressure to adopt a low-carbon economy and heavy competition in a world in which distance is less important. It's entirely appropriate to consider how to redesign our education system to produce the flexible, inquisitive talents our province needs.

**4. Do you believe the Alberta government is currently providing the appropriate amount of funding for public education in kindergarten to Grade 12?**

No, funding has unfortunately eroded over the past two years. The government has a responsibility to provide stable and predictable funding for Alberta's public education system. It's extremely important to minimize disruptions to the learning environment.

**5. How do you propose to provide the funding required for the Inspiring Action Initiative, which is estimated to cost at least \$1 billion?**

I believe that the Initiative offers the best way forward. With proper collaboration across ministries, I'm confident that the costs of implementing the Initiative can be kept below \$1 billion.

**6. If you were elected Premier of Alberta in the next provincial election, what would be your timeline to complete the Inspiring Action Initiative?**

As Premier, I will begin implementing the Initiative immediately.

**7. What is your commitment to increasing the importance of fine arts in education and society in general?**

I intend to release my policy on culture and the arts in the weeks ahead. At that time, I will be better able to answer this question.

Respectfully,

Alison Redford