

Motion on children's right to education

Whereas Saskatchewan's children have a right to attend school and receive instruction without discrimination under the Education Act;

And whereas the Education Act states "no teacher, trustee, director or other school official shall, in any way deprive, or attempt to deprive, a pupil of access to, or the advantage of, the educational services approved and provided by the board of education or the conseil scolaire";

And whereas lack of access to early intervention programs such as Discovery Preschool effectively limits the right of access to education when children come of school age under the Act;

And whereas the Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination, including discrimination based on mental and physical disability;

And whereas program and staff supports for early learning and school-aged students with intensive needs have been reduced in response to provincial budget cuts;

Be it resolved that the RBE direct its legal counsel to consider the legal implications of program and staff support reductions for school-aged and preschool children with intensive needs, in regards to the rights guaranteed by the Education Act and Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedom, and make representation to the Ministry of Education on these matters.

Be it further resolved that, when faced with budgetary decisions, the RBE will prioritize protection of the rights of intensive needs students and preschoolers, and will fulfill its moral and legal obligation to not deprive Regina children of their rightful access to schools and instruction.