

Dear SHBE Member or Supporter,

SHBE has noted that many school divisions have been holding information nights, forums and other events to engage parents to provide feedback on possible changes to educational governance and administration. Details are available here: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/share-your-thoughts-on-the-k-12-education-governance-review> (includes a link to the report).

SHBE is taking this opportunity to provide parents with a sketch of home educational rights, the current regulatory framework in Saskatchewan, the governance and administration model as it is today, and what SHBE is doing to address shortcomings in the current system.

**1. Foundation of Home Based Education in Saskatchewan**

SHBE holds that parents have the foremost right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children. We believe it follows logically that parents are the default educators for their children. While other parents delegate some or all of those duties to provincial, religious or private institutions, home educators have opted instead to exercise their responsibilities directly.

**2. Regulatory Framework simplified and explained concisely**

In Saskatchewan, parents notify the province of their intent to homeschool. The province appoints a “registering authority” to input data into a provincial registration system. The province’s current registering authorities are public or separate school divisions or conseil scolaires. It is important to note that registering authorities are not to provide consent for parents to educate their children; they simply acknowledge that the paperwork provided by home educators is in compliance with provincial regulations.

**3. Current Home Based Education Governance and Administration**

The province provides funding to each registering authority for administration of provincial home education regulations, and also to provide supports and services to home educators. Although neither the school divisions nor ministry of education will provide us with the amount of this funding, our very conservative estimate is that it is over \$7 million annually. School divisions have not been transparent or accountable to parents or home educators for the funding provided by the province for home educated students.

**4. SHBE submission to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education**

SHBE is joining with Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA Canada) and the Canadian Centre for Home Education (CCHÉ) to make a submission as part of the feedback process. No matter the model selected, SHBE will focus primarily on maintaining and enhancing parental freedom to home educate and secondarily on improving the governance such that it is more transparent and accountable, with adequate participation by home educators.

SHBE asks that our members and supporters provide feedback at the link shared above.

- 1) We ask that SHBE be counted as stakeholder in these discussions,
- 2) We ask that the province appoint registering authorities who are accountable to home educators for their use of provincial funding provided to support home educated students, and
- 3) We ask that any governance model be transparent and include the participation of home educators.

We will forward to our members a copy of our submission as soon as it is available. Beyond that, we ask that you continue to work charitably with your local school division or conseil scolaire, keeping in mind that we are educating our children personally because we simply decline to delegate that responsibility and joy to anyone else.

On Behalf of the SHBE Board of Directors,

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