

Constituency Association: Grande Prairie

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Draft Resolution:

The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should develop and implement, through Alberta Education, a province-wide standard for reliable, in-person Learning Commons (library) access in every school, with collections managed by qualified library professionals.

Draft Resolution Rationale:

The Problem: Current rules allocate Learning Commons resources and staffing through board-level funding decisions, creating unequal opportunities. In many communities, especially small schools and rural, access can be unreliable. Often, one library staff (a tech rather than a librarian) is shared between schools so they is only available half of the year (every other day). Schools depend on qualified professionals for the important work as required by the Learning Commons Guidelines (May 2014) so when spaces close or staff are reassigned, it puts students and teachers at a disadvantage.

Why This Matters: Having collections managed by qualified library professionals (teacher librarian or librarian) supports curriculum-aligned, developmentally appropriate resources and consistent stewardship. This approach keeps the outcome clear, leaves flexibility for local delivery, and supports the same basic opportunity for students in rural, northern, and urban schools.

This policy ensures support for school authorities in providing what Alberta already promises. The Ministerial Order on Student Learning states: "Alberta Education's objective is to deliver a world-class education for EVERY student..." A simple Alberta-wide baseline sets a clear, easy-to-understand expectation: students should be able to access a fully functioning Commons during the school day. Reporting on access makes results comparable across Alberta without prescribing how each division meets the goal.

This Policy ensures Alberta's official policies and guidelines apply equally to every student (e.g., the Education Act, Ministerial Order, K-12 policies).