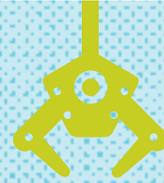


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LEADERSHIP DEBATE EXCERPTS

At the November 30th, 2017 debate in Weyburn, Saskatchewan Party leadership candidates were asked: “What does properly resourced and adequately funded actually look like?”

Here is a transcription of the first couple of sentences from each answer.

ALANNA KOCH: “We’ve all had an opportunity to talk about education quite a bit, because it’s been a pretty significant issue in this leadership race. What I’ve said is that we do need to assure that the funds we spend, that the majority of them end up in the classroom, where teachers can use those funds to make sure they can teach the students and deal with the constant challenges they’re facing in classrooms.”

GORD WYANT: “This really starts with a respectful conversation, not just with school board administrators and trustees but with parents and teachers as well. And I think we need to modernize the funding formula so that school divisions get – currently it’s based on a per pupil funding model. But I think what we need to do is base that funding, based on the needs of students.”

TINA BEAUDRY-MELLOR: “The number one thing I hear about in my constituency office is the fact that there are shortages of supports for learning. And when I looked at the education sector plan, that equates to about 15 percent of the overall education budget. And that’s the thing I hear about most often in my travels. So I propose a couple of things: Number one is that we revisit the Supports for Learning component of the budget. That is the thing, when times are hard, that we can’t do everything, but that seems to be the area where there are the greatest needs and where teachers seem to be struggling the most.”

SCOTT MOE: “This is a very important question for communities across the province, and it’s one that I agree, it does deserve a very respectful dialogue, with all of those involved – school boards, educators, parents, school community councils, and all of those involved. But we also must recognize the investment that has occurred in the classroom and the investment in infrastructure to address growth in our communities and we need to continue to invest in that infrastructure to replace the buildings that we have across this province.”

ROB CLARKE: “The Supreme Court of Canada guarantees the right of parents when it comes to matters of education in this country. This means that the government does not have the right to interfere with the good choices that we as parents have about where our kids attend school. But what we’re hearing here today is that the teachers need support. They need the help. They’re not asking for pay raises. What they’re asking for is for educational assistants, for classroom management...”

KEN CHEVELDAYOFF: “When we first became government, we spent just under a billion dollars, 964 million on education. Now we spend over two billion dollars. So, it’s not necessarily all about money. I know that we’ve increased budgets each and every year. The last budget was a tough one and we have to continue to grow the economy. What teachers want and educators want is respect. They want to be able to enhance the student-teacher and parent ratio.”

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