



National Chief Perry Bellegarde  
AFN National Chief  
Assembly of First Nations  
55 Metcalfe Street  
Suite 1600  
Ottawa, ON K1P 6L5

**SUBJECT: CSBA support for the work of the Assembly of First Nations in the aftermath of Attawapiskat**

March 23, 2017

Dear National Chief Bellegarde,

On behalf of the Canadian School Boards' Association, I am writing to offer our support to the Assembly of First Nations in your ongoing quest to improve learning and living conditions for First Nations and other Indigenous students. We believe that improving educational opportunities for Indigenous youth is critical to improving their mental and physical well-being, and to addressing the ongoing challenges they face.

The Canadian School Boards' Association believes that this improvement needs to occur in a number of ways:

- Equity of funding
- Creation of Respectful and Welcoming Learning Environments
- Development and Implementation of Respectful and Inclusive Curriculum and Classroom Programs
- Delivery of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy
- Valuing First Nation, Métis and Inuit expertise
- Using Culturally Responsive Assessment
- Revitalizing languages
- Increasing Numbers of Indigenous Teachers, Support Staff, and Leadership
- Fostering commitment of Non-Indigenous learners to FNMI education
- Research

The Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) is the national body of provincial school board associations representing over 250 school boards and more than three million elementary and secondary students across Canada. The Canadian School Boards Association has been a long-standing advocate for the advancement of quality public education opportunities for all Indigenous Peoples,



We are living in a new and promising era. From coast to coast to coast, federal, provincial and territorial governments have increased their efforts to renew relationships and achieve reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous Peoples. As such, we would be interested in arranging a meeting to discuss with you how we can best work together to support the creation of a better education for Indigenous students, and the realization of the TRC's Calls to Action in the area of education.

**Floyd Martens**

**President  
Canadian School Boards Association**