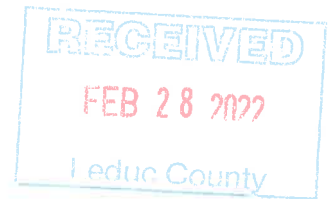




ALBERTA
EDUCATION

Office of the Minister



AR117851

FEB 23 2022

Mr. Sebastian Dutrisac
Chair
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
c/o Aaron Van Beers
101, 1101 - 5 Street
Nisku AB T9E 2X3

Dear Mr. Dutrisac:

Thank you for your February 1, 2022 letter regarding a January 2022 resolution passed by the Agricultural Service Boards that all schools in Alberta celebrate Canada Agriculture Day.

I recognize the importance of educating Alberta's students about agriculture and the origins of food. From Kindergarten to Grade 9, Science and Social Studies courses are mandatory core subjects for most students in Alberta, and they provide students with opportunities to learn about concepts related to agriculture in Alberta. These opportunities continue into high school when choice in programming accommodates a wider range of needs and interests for students as they plan their futures.

The curriculum also provides opportunities for studying issues, including those related to using, distributing and managing resources and the environment, through various lenses in a well-balanced manner.

In addition, the optional Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) program supports flexible learning through which students in Grades 5 to 9 explore interests and aspirations while making personal connections to career possibilities. A teacher or a school authority may decide to create a CTF challenge that could include agricultural education, particularly if there is student interest in a course.

High school electives include the Agriculture area of the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) curriculum, which offers more than 40 one-credit courses in which students learn about agricultural/horticultural production, the provision of related services and support for sustainable development and efficient use of natural resources. The CTS Apprenticeship curriculum includes 15 courses developed to align with the current Agricultural Equipment Technician Apprenticeship. As a whole, the set of courses covers the content of the first period of technical training for an agricultural equipment technician.

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The Alberta Dual Credit Framework, which provides students with opportunities to personalize their high school experience and discover or build on their career interests, includes opportunities in the area of agriculture. Examples include Producing Horticulture Crops and Small Animal Restraint and Handling, both opportunities offered in partnership with Olds College.

Alberta Education's Green Certificate Program (GCP) is an apprenticeship-style training program that enables students to gain valuable experience, training and certification in the agriculture industry in Alberta. This program is offered jointly by the ministry of Education and the ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, and provides students with opportunities to enter a variety of structured learning pathways related to agriculture as part of their senior high school program and to earn a credential leading to a career in agribusiness. Although the focus of the program is skills development, students may increase their awareness of food origins and sustainability.

Alberta's government is currently renewing the K-12 provincial curriculum. Alberta's updated draft K-6 curriculum explicitly addresses the early origins of agriculture that includes the study of fertile prairie lands, grain growing and the roots of prairie grain elevators. Students will also learn how plants and animals commonly used in Alberta agriculture production relate to climate, research how agricultural production contributes to daily life in Alberta and investigate how conservation in agricultural practice protects and maintains the land.

While Alberta Education outlines what students are expected to know, understand and be able to do in each subject and grade through the Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum, teachers use their professional judgement to determine how students achieve the learning outcomes in the provincial programs of study. Schools and school authorities have the autonomy to select resources that align with the curriculum, including the designation of a day honouring a particular sector or profession.

I would encourage you to visit the Alberta Schools and Authorities website directory at education.alberta.ca/alberta-education/school-authority-index/everyone/school-authority-information-reports/ so that you may reach out to the schools and authorities directly with your request to celebrate Canada Agriculture Day.

I appreciate your ongoing interest in educating Alberta students about agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adriana LaGrange', written in a cursive style.

Adriana LaGrange
Minister