



Parents for Choice in Education (parentchoice.ca) is an Alberta-based, non-profit organization that supports Alberta students by advocating for excellence in education through maximum parental choice.

To help parents make informed decisions in the upcoming trustee elections, we invite candidates to respond to the following questions on key education issues.

Most questions are answered Yes / No / Somewhat, with space provided for additional comments.

Responses are published on our website and shared widely to help voters understand candidates' positions.

Candidate Email: jacqui@jacquivanderfluit.ca

Candidate Name: Jacqueline Vanderfluit

School Board: Christ the Redeemer Catholic Separate Regional Division

Ward/Area (if applicable): Ward 3 High River and Area

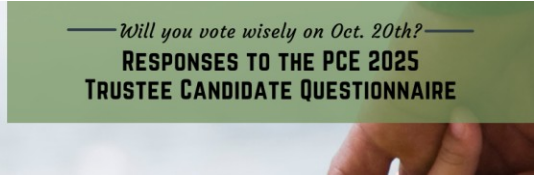
Please provide any links to your social media and/or website that you would like us to include with your answers: <https://jacquivanderfluit.ca>

(Note: my website will not be published until next Monday)

#1. Who are trustees primarily accountable to?

The Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association, "ACSTA", has developed a handbook for prospective candidates. (Visit: <https://acsta.ab.ca/resources/2025-municipal-election>)

According to ACTSA, a Catholic school board trustee is distinct from a public trustee due to their responsibility to uphold the faith-based mission of publicly funded Catholic education. ACTSA says Catholic Trustees are accountable to Catholic ratepayers, guided by Church teaching (as expressed in Scripture, Canon Law and magisterial documents) and deferential to the Bishops. I would respectfully submit that a Catholic Trustee is also accountable to



every constituent who declares, as a voter, that they are eligible to vote in a Separate School Board Election in their respective ward. From a faith-based perspective, if elected, I would continue to be accountable to Jesus Christ, the Parish, the Diocese of Calgary, My Superintendent(s), my fellow Board of Trustees, School Councils, School Administrators, Teachers and Parents, Support Staff, Educators, the students, the constituents in Ward 3, my local community and the Minister of Education.

#2. Trustees are expected to represent parents. If candidates are supported by the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), that risks shifting their loyalty toward teachers instead of parents. Have you received support from the ATA — financial, in-kind, or by participating in ATA candidate workshops?

Learn more:

[ATA trustee elections page](#)

[Vote4Kids site \(ATA-run\)](#)

No

#3. Should school board funding prioritize classrooms and teachers over administrative programs and positions, for example, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) coordinators?

Learn more:

[Issues with funding](#)

[Facts on Funding](#)

No



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**RESPONSES TO THE PCE 2025
TRUSTEE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

#4. Should curriculum development rely on subject-matter experts to set clear, foundational outcomes in core subjects, rather than bureaucrats or political agendas?

Yes

#5. Should sexually explicit books be excluded from school classrooms and libraries?

Yes

#6. Should parents be notified and asked for consent before children are taught sensitive topics such as gender identity or sexuality?

Learn more: [Legal rights of parents](#)

Yes

#7. Many school boards still have secrecy policies, originally mandated by the government, that prevent staff from informing parents if a child joins a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). Do you believe these secrecy policies should remain in place?

Learn more: [Secrecy in Alberta schools](#)

No

#8. Should school board meetings be open to the public, with exceptions only where privacy is legally required?

Learn more: [In 2011, the Calgary Board of Education even considered a “gag order” to restrict public input.](#)

[In 2025, Edmonton Public moved to pull 200 classics like 1984 after a provincial directive on explicit content. **Yet no meeting notes show how trustees chose such an extreme response.**](#)

Yes



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#9. Should trustees be free to visit schools and publicly share their views on board policies?

Learn more: [Example of Alberta trustees being censured under board codes of conduct in Red Deer Catholic.](#)

Somewhat

#10. Do you believe parents should have the final say in decisions affecting their child's education, health, and well-being at school?

Somewhat

#11. Should schools provide clear, objective measures of student learning (e.g., standardized tests and percentage-based reporting) so parents can know how their children are progressing?

Learn more:
[Performance matters
In Defense of Standardized testing](#)

Somewhat

#12. Should school boards require parental consent before outside groups or facilitators are given access to students during school time?

Yes

If you have any additional comments that you would like to have publicly available, especially if you answered "somewhat" to any of the questions above, please provide them below.

Question 2



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I agree there exists a global expectation that “trustees represent parents”. To my chagrin, the Education Act does not authorize trustees to operate as representatives for parents. Parents have very few rights afforded to us under the Education Act but very few people understand how strong our parental rights are under s.55 of the Education Act as it relates to School Councils: Section 55(4) A school council may, at its discretion, (a) advise the principal and the board respecting any matter relating to the school, (b) perform any duty or function delegated to it by the board in accordance with the delegation, (c) consult with the principal so that the principal may ensure that students in the school have the opportunity to meet the standards of education set by the Minister (d) consult with the principal so that the principal may ensure that the fiscal management of the school is in accordance with the requirements of the board and the superintendent, and (e) do anything it is authorized under the regulations to do.

School councils are not fundraising bodies. This is the legal mechanism for parents to use their voice as the legislation intended. Returning to PCE’s question, I can confirm I have never received support from the Alberta Teachers Association. In fact, I am on legal record with the ATA (Mr. Dennis Theobald and Mr. Jason Schilling) in request for the following: (i) Kindly refrain from hosting ATA guest speakers who engage in rhetoric that targets, disparages and/or maligns the faith of Christian (Catholic) teachers. These teachers actively pay union fees to the Association and should not have to be subjected to discriminatory speeches hosted by the ATA; (ii) as a condition of offering the Alberta School Councils Association no-fee rental space, please amend your ad campaign posters and kindly refrain from applying undue pressure for ASCA members to participate in your ATA union campaigns targeted at Minister LaGrange and the UCP. Voicing concerns with government is one thing but voicing concerns against the personal name of both an MLA and a political party is outside of scope; ASCA is a non-partisan organization for the purpose of empowering school council; the ATA is putting ASCA’s CRA



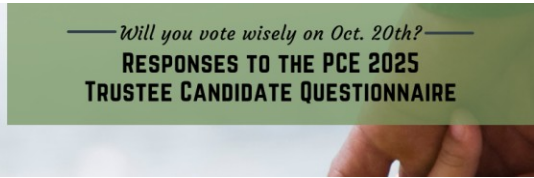
charitable registration number at risk each time the ATA elicits ASCA parent volunteers to align with union objectives without ASCA declaring this objective to the CRA in Form 6.

Question 3

It would be inappropriate for me to answer this question without having the particulars to review. I can confirm that trustees are tasked with hiring the Superintendent for the School Authority. That Superintendent is responsible for operations, and the Board of Trustees may not unreasonably interfere with operations. As a parent, it is evident to me that classroom size is, currently, a non-negotiable point of contention fueling the labour strike. As a parent and a trustee hopeful, I respect the bargaining agreement between the parties, and I pray an agreement can be reached. I can also offer my observation that the classrooms and teachers at my child's school appear to be well funded and well supported. We have been blessed with an inexplicably skilled and faith driven superintendent team. This said, I can reasonably ascertain that PCE is identifying its concerns about funding priorities, especially in Edmonton and Calgary

Question 4

I am not an expert in curriculum development so it would be inappropriate to speculate. However, I can confirm Curriculum development in Alberta has been polarizing to say the least. Many educators opted not to participate in piloting the draft curriculum due to objections as to its content rendering those teachers ineligible to provide otherwise valuable feedback. During the piloting of the draft curriculum, Minister LaGrange stipulated that those educators who participated in piloting were eligible to participate in submitting feedback and recommendations to the Minister directly. Is it not better to participate so that feedback from



teachers can be included? It is my understanding that schools within my school division did participate in piloting the draft curriculum. As a parent, I was pleased to know that we had teachers who are committed to excellence by agreeing to voluntarily pilot the draft to be eligible to give the Ministry of Education the necessary feedback. This PCE question is very important because when we politicize curriculum development, it has greater implications. For instance, Northwest Territories relied on the Alberta Curriculum for decades but is now currently transitioning to follow B.C.'s curriculum set for 2027-28. When there are political agendas involved, the implications often extend outside our province.

Question 5.

The Criminal Code of Canada expressly provides for the legal definition of sexually explicit materials: R.S.A. 1985, c. C-46, s. 171.1(5) - (Reference: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-46/section-171.1.html>):

(5) In subsection (1), sexually explicit material means material that is not child pornography, as defined in subsection 163.1(1), and that is

(a) a photographic, film, video or other visual representation, whether or not it was made by electronic or mechanical means,

(i) that shows a person who is engaged in or is depicted as engaged in explicit sexual activity, or

(ii) the dominant characteristic of which is the depiction, for a sexual purpose, of a person's genital organs or anal region or, if the person is female, her breasts;

(b) written material whose dominant characteristic is the description, for a sexual purpose, of explicit sexual activity with a person; or



c) an audio recording whose dominant characteristic is the description, presentation or representation, for a sexual purpose, of explicit sexual activity with a person.

Every person commits an offence who transmits, makes available, distributes or sells sexually explicit material to a person who is under the age of 18 and 16, and 14 respectively for the purpose of facilitating the commission of an offence as defined in s. 171.1(1)(a-c). In my humble estimation, sexually explicit books that meet the legal definition under s.171.1(5) should be excluded from classrooms and public/school/community libraries. This said, I have EVERY CONFIDENCE in the professional judgment of Christ the Redeemer’s librarians, CTR’s learning commons employees, support staff and teachers/educators. We are a faith-centred school division. I trust in the authority of those entrusted to selected appropriate reading materials.

QUESTION 6

PCE has duly used its platform to help parents become familiar with s. 58.1(1) of the Education Act with respect to School Boards having legal obligation to give “Notice to the Parent” under these circumstances. The Education Act has subsequently been amended, in 2024, to include provisions under s. 58.11 “Notice and consent re: gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality instruction” and s. 58.12 “Parental Notification and consent policies” The amendments include a provision for parents to appeal under s. 58.2 if the Board, teacher or other persons is found in “Non-Compliance”

QUESTION 7



I am on record for bringing my formal concerns to, then, Minister, David Eggan back in 2017. I sincerely had empathy for the Honorable Minister because I believe his intent was to protect students. As a parent, I am my child's primary educator and while I can appreciate the necessity to strike a balance, I am not negotiable when it comes to advocating for my parental right to know if my child joins a GSA based on my child's complex needs as defined in the IPP. I am unequivocally opposed to secrecy policies. But to be fully transparent and honest, I am in support of non-disclosure agreements based on multi-disciplinary consensus among professionals on a case-by-case basis. Finally, I humbly submit that my school division's policies are very transparent. I had a concern last year about the lack of information in a school suspension policy when I heard about a term called "in-school suspensions". So, in my capacity of school council member, I brought my concern about the policy to my school council meeting as an agenda item to discuss. The principal and the Trustee were more than pleased to provide context and definition as to what "in-school suspension" means and fill in the blanks where I had questions. There was no secrecy... but rather just cooperative, transparent communication between engaged parents, our local trustee, our principal, our teacher representative and our parish representative. This said, the agenda item started out as a parent thinking it was secretive policy but that was because "in house suspensions" weren't defined in our school policy. So by bringing the item to school council for discussion, the Trustee received valuable feedback and the parents received the clarity needed to feel assured.

QUESTION 8

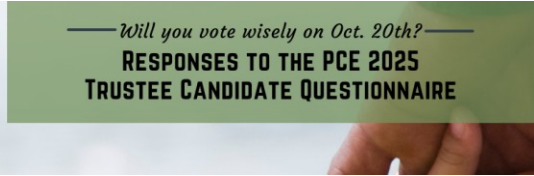
In Alberta, privacy law obliges boards and municipalities to go "in camera" for agenda items that require discretion and protection from unreasonable disclosure to the public. These situations often involve sensitive matters such as legal, land, personnel. Private sessions such as these are strictly limited to what the legislation stipulates. I am not aware of Catholic Trustee



Board meetings being closed to the public but “in camera agenda items are routine” If other constituents are experiencing non transparency or secretive meetings, I am not in favour of closed meetings, particularly by elected officials under the Local Authorities Election Act.

QUESTION 9

At Christ the Redeemer, Trustees routinely and frequently visit our schools, at very minimum, once a month, for School Council meetings. Yes, a trustee is expected to respond to a parent’s question when board policy questions are raised. I do not believe a trustee’s-chartered right of expressing a viewpoint should be limited or restricted if it is within the realm of exchanging ideas in a fruitful, sanctioned discussion within School Council meetings, ward meetings and/or council of council meetings, as just three examples, where parent engagement is both essential and welcomed. This said, if I am elected as a Catholic Trustee, I would now be speaking through the lens of the Catholic Diocese...What would the Bishop think if I said this aloud? Would the Superintendent think this is ok for me to say? Does Jesus approve of this? Could my fellow Trustees have issue with what I’m about to say? When you are privileged to join a team of school trustees, part of the joy of participating in team collaboration is that you also get to embark on a personal spiritual journey of humility and self control. For me, this would take the shape of limiting my comments and restricting my personal opinions on my own accord because I genuinely want to be a GrACE ambassador for Catholic Education. I realize the way I conduct myself would reflect on Christ the Redeemer. I really feel the weight of that outcome. Great Question PCE! Made me think!



QUESTION 10

At Christ the Redeemer and as a tenant of our Catholic Education, we believe the parent is the child's primary educator. It is a fact that a parent's legal rights are limited under the Education Act. As parents, once we make our Choice in Education, we are required to abide by our responsibilities set out in section 33 of the Education Act and this, regrettably, does not always give us the final say. While I support parental access to a robust justice system which affords a parent the option to apply for those rights and remedies being denied, it is a fact that when Christ is at the centre of Catholic Education, parents are the primary educator! We have a unique opportunity to collaborate and make meaningful contributions in all decisions affecting our child's education, health and wellbeing in our Catholic Schools This has been my genuine experience. So therefore, notwithstanding the limitations within the Education Act, I genuinely do feel I have the final say in my child's education, health and well-being at school in a Catholic Education setting because we are all accountable to our Christ, to Alberta Education and to our church. I also know for a fact this is not every parent's experience in public schools. My dream is that parents will choose their school and have the same empowered experience.

QUESTION 11

My spouse and I have respectful but lively debates on this question. Another great PCE question. I am in favour of standardized testing and percentage-based reporting. I also support accommodation (extra time; modifications) to support testing parameters. To be clear, I am aware of the merits to the other side of this debate, and I always remain open. It should be



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noted that when I have asked for concrete percentages, CTR has always met my request. As a parent, I want to see the percentage. But what I didn't consider is the emotional and psychological wellness of my child if they see a 32% in Power school. I didn't consider that. I didn't consider the psychological wellness of a student if they see repeated grade scores below 50% and what that could do. So, the lesson I took away is that I trust in God and my Educators that they know what they are doing, and my child's teachers have considered all factors when weighting grades and assignments. To be clear, teachers consider the things I don't and for this, I give thanks and praise for Catholic Education.

QUESTION 12

I am in strong support of School Board's amending their electronic consent forms which most School Authorities issue to parents at the beginning of the school year . I support giving parents the CHOICE to pick and choose what we will consent to throughout the school year in terms of field trips and guest speakers. I think the issue of barriers to facilitating "parental consent" is being fuelled by 3rd party insurance carriers. I can appreciate that School Boards are under siege by Insurance companies telling Divisional Authorities how consent forms must be signed and what limitations exist. It is my understanding that some Insurers demand School Authorities to compel parents to sign away their rights electronically without granting parents the option to "electronically" amend or change our parental consent throughout the year. (Some Divisions permit parents to contact the school and request to make a change on the consent form). If the Superintendent did let me off my leash, the first bite would be chomping on the shoe of the Insurer in r request to review those restrictive covenants within insurance policies that are putting School Boards, province wide, over the barrel which effectively limits our parental choices and rights as it relates to CONSENT.



CLOSING COMMENTS:

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Parents for Choice in Education “PCE” for providing this platform for all candidates. Though I am not always in personal alignment with all of PCE’s policy initiatives, I remain steadfast in support of your organization’s passion and I laud your outspoken right to engage parents with issues about choice in education.

Kind Blessings, Jacqui Vanderfluit.