

December 2, 2020

Honourable Adriana LaGrange  
Minister of Education  
228 Legislature Building  
10800-97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister LaGrange,

### **Request to collect race-based data provincially**

Research shows that Black, Indigenous and people of colour experience and are harmed by systemic racism. We, as a Board of Trustees, acknowledge systemic racism exists within education systems and as such recognize the collection of race-based data is a practice that can help address racism and racial discrimination. Currently, the lack of race-based data within EPSB is making it difficult for us as a school division to measure educational inequalities and furthermore to identify inequities that exist because of racism and discrimination.

Knowing this, our Board unanimously passed the following motion at our September 22, 2020, public Board meeting:

Given that collecting race-based data is one necessary step in working to dismantle systemic racism and racial discrimination, the Edmonton Public School Board formally requests that Administration develop a model for the collection of race-based data in our Division, in consultation with communities in Edmonton impacted by racism.

Edmonton Public Schools is the first school jurisdiction in Alberta to formally move to collect race-based data. We expect that meaningful use of race-based data will lead to policy and planning change which will lead to greater equity within our school division for racialized students.

Ideally, however, race-based data would be collected by school jurisdictions across Alberta to inform practice and policy decisions at the provincial level. This work could also align with race-based data collection that is emerging in Alberta Health Services and other sectors to provide a more holistic view of Alberta's citizens and the services they receive. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you mandate the collection of race-based data in school divisions across the province.

The Board also recognizes the collection of race-based data requires thoughtful and meaningful conversations with communities impacted by racism. If the work is to be meaningful, it must be done in collaboration with community, in order to respect any concerns about student and family privacy and the use of the data. Therefore, we do not expect this to be a quick or simple process, but know that it is important enough to take the time to do it and to do it well. We hope you agree and will help ensure a more equitable learning environment - and world - for all students by implementing the collection of race-based data across all provincial schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trisha Estabrooks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Trisha Estabrooks  
Board Chair

