



November 12, 2025

Mr. Jason Schilling
President, Alberta Teachers Association
11010 142 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5N 2R1
Jason.Schilling@ata.ab.ca

Re: Support for Public Education, Teachers and Alberta Students

Dear Mr. Schilling:

L'Association canadienne des enseignantes et enseignants retraités – Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART) is a bilingual organization comprised of eleven member organizations across Canada with a total membership of 93,533 members.

One of the four objectives of ACER-CART is “to promote and support public education in Canada”.

ACER-CART stands in full solidarity with the Alberta Teachers Association (ATA) and its members who have been fighting for a fair and reasonable contract to ensure better learning and working conditions for teachers, education workers and students.

ACER-CART is appalled and outraged by the Danielle Smith government's decision to legislate teachers back to work and their use of the notwithstanding clause to impose a collective agreement.

In November 2022 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau emphasized the critical importance of standing up for Canadian's rights and freedoms, including workers' rights. He was clear that the pre-emptive use of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* notwithstanding clause was wrong and inappropriate, and should only ever be used in the most exceptional of circumstances.

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* exist to protect Canadians precisely when it becomes inconvenient for governments to respect those rights. Using the notwithstanding clause to remove the right to strike and bargain freely is not a path for labour peace – it is the erosion of fundamental freedoms and an attack on democratic norms.

By invoking the notwithstanding clause, the government has deliberately trampled Alberta's teachers' constitutional rights to free, fair and meaningful collective bargaining and silencing their ability to stand up for themselves, their students and their profession. We applaud the tremendous courage and unity of ATA members in the face of the Alberta government inaction and disrespect.

ACER-CART members stand united in their commitment in supporting and strengthening publicly funded education and building a fair, equitable and just society. Your struggle is one we understand and champion as retired teachers – the fight for properly funded schools, class sizes that ensure success and respect that is essential to help students learn, grow and thrive.

ACER-CART wants every ATA member to know that you are not alone and we stand shoulder to shoulder with you at this time. You have our full support and admiration. Alberta's teachers' strength, resolve and solidarity are an inspiration to us all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Berryman".

Bill Berryman
President, ACER-CART
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c. ACER-CART Executive, Directors, Alternates and Presidents
Political Advocacy Committee