

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

1.0 SUPPORT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

L.E.A.D.S. is dedicated to the maintenance and enhancement of a free publicly governed and funded school system that provides equal educational opportunity for all children in the province. L.E.A.D.S. believes in the efficiency and effectiveness of our publicly supported educational institutions.

Further, L.E.A.D.S. believes that:

- The promise of educational equality is guaranteed and protected by the reasonable interpretation of the B.N.A. Act which provides for a bifurcated educational system encompassing public and separate school divisions.**
- Education is a shared responsibility among the home, school, church and community.**
- Public school division staff should respond reasonably to the diverse needs of students in a pluralistic society while addressing the goals of Saskatchewan Education and those of the local school division.**
- Each child in the province has a right to attend school and receive a quality education within the terms of the Education Act and under the supervision of the Minister.**
- Public schools provide a climate that celebrates individuality while teaching the information, skills, values and understandings that are necessary to life in our global community.**
- Public education exists to provide a consensus for common action and a larger loyalty and understanding that can prevent or at least dissolve apparent conflicts.**
- The province, under the direction of the Minister, has an obligation to provide students with a broad view of the world, a high tolerance for different view points, and a commitment to the common good.**

2.0 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Independent schools are those schools which operate outside the governance of a publicly elected board.

Though members of L.E.A.D.S. believe strongly in public education, they acknowledge the operation of independent schools in Saskatchewan. In the case of independent schools L.E.A.D.S. believes that Saskatchewan Education has responsibility to:

- **Establish a mechanism for registering each independent school.**
- **Establish the conditions and procedures for the operation of independent schools.**
- **Ensure that independent schools provide instruction not inconsistent with the goals of Saskatchewan Education.**
- **Ensure that independent schools provide for instruction by teachers certified in accordance with the teacher certification and classification regulations.**
- **Ensure that independent schools are inspected by Saskatchewan Education and that such inspection not be a requirement of the Chief Executive Officer in the area in which the independent school is located except by mutual agreement.**
- **Ensure that independent schools operate in accordance with The Independent School Regulations.**
- **Direct that government funding not be made available to independent schools.**

CONCLUSION

Though L.E.A.D.S. believes that in the interest of society as a whole, public education is the most acceptable standard, its members understand that independent schools exist to meet parental expectations. They urge that, as much as possible, students be encouraged to receive their education within the mainstream of society in public schools and that public funding be maintained to finance these institutions.