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Media Release

CBE Cuts Impact Staff and Students

Over 1,800 support staff working in almost 50 different job categories throughout the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) have been temporarily laid off according to the union representing the workers.

CBE Staff Association Chairperson Rae Ann Royal expressed disappointment at the apparent continued assumption behind government funding cuts that support staff are expendable in the education of students. “Every person in every position ultimately plays a direct role in the education and support of students” she noted. “In addition to the devastating impact this will have on the employees, it will again have a disproportionate effect on students and families most in need of extra support.”

Royal said that the Association was particularly surprised to learn, only when layoff notices were issued, that all Speech Language Pathologists and Psychologists were to be laid off. “These roles are probably more conducive than many to providing supports electronically and by telephone” she said. The SLP’s support the youngest learners to begin their education journey on an equal footing while the Psychologists support student learning and both students and parents in dealing with mental health challenges.

Noted Royal, “the enhanced stress and challenges all are experiencing in the current environment is equally true of students, so more, rather than less, supports are needed.”

The CBE Staff Association represents approximately 4,000 continuous and 1,500 casual employees working for the Calgary Board of Education in a multitude of positions in both schools and administration.

- 30 -

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