



**Saskatchewan  
Arts Alliance**

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May 27, 2025

Hon. Everett Hindley, Minister of Education  
Room 361, 2405 Legislative Drive  
Regina, SK, S4S 0B3

Hon. Scott Moe, Premier  
Room 226, 2405 Legislative Drive  
Regina, SK, S4S 0B3

Dear Honourable Minister Hindley and Honourable Premier Moe,

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance (SAA), I am writing to express our deep concern regarding the confirmed cuts to the elementary band programs in the Regina Public School Division. These reductions, which follow an already significant 40% loss in band teaching staff since the 2022–2023 school year, will result in unmanageable student-to-teacher ratios, severely compromising the quality and accessibility of music education for young learners across the city.

Music education is not an enrichment activity - it is a cornerstone of a well-rounded public education. Students who participate in music programs demonstrate stronger academic outcomes, improved memory, increased social and emotional skills, and higher levels of engagement in school overall.

Music also plays a critical role in students' mental health and sense of belonging. For many children, band class is the one place they feel confident and connected. The elimination and/or reduction of these programs will disproportionately affect students whose families cannot afford private lessons, further widening educational inequities.

Furthermore, the value of music education extends well beyond childhood. Research published in *Psychology of Music* shows that individuals who received school-based music education are significantly more likely to remain engaged in the arts as adults, both as creators and supporters. This lifelong engagement strengthens our cultural sector, fuels the creative economy, and contributes to a more civically engaged and vibrant society.

At a time when students and educators are still recovering from the impacts of the pandemic, further stripping away arts programming undermines the very supports that help young people thrive.

We urge the Government of Saskatchewan to take immediate action to:

- Reverse planned cuts and maintain funding that enables specialist music educators to teach band in elementary schools.
- Ensure that no student is denied access to music education because of staffing cuts or budget constraints.
- Recognize music and the arts as essential to student success, wellness, and the future of our province.

Investing in music education is an investment in lifelong learning, cultural participation, and community well-being. Saskatchewan students deserve equitable access to the transformative power of the arts.

We look forward to hearing from you soon to discuss the matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Em Ironstar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Em" and last name "Ironstar" clearly distinguishable.

Em Ironstar, Executive Director  
Saskatchewan Arts Alliance

cc: Honourable Alana Ross, MLA for Prince Albert Northcote, Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport

Darcy Warrington, MLA for Saskatoon Stonebridge, Shadow Minister, Parks, Culture & Sport

Tracy Morey, Executive Director, Sport, Culture and Recreation, Ministry of Parks, Culture & Sport

Jennifer Jungwirth, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Music Educators Association