

SASKATCHEWAN FINANCIAL LITERACY NETWORK

January 8, 2018

Mr. Steve McLellan
Chief Executive Officer
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
Suite 1630 – 1920 Broad Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3V2

Mr. McLellan:

Canada was one of the top performers in the 2015 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results, doing particularly well in the areas of science, math, and reading.

Unfortunately, Saskatchewan ranked last in all three of these subjects when compared to other Canadian provinces. Saskatchewan 15-year-olds performed at the international average in science and reading, but was the only Canadian province to perform below the international average in mathematics.

These results suggest that the educational achievement of Saskatchewan students is lagging behind the rest of Canada and a significant portion of the world. Since education clearly correlates to economic productivity, civic engagement, personal well-being, and an overall higher quality of life, this issue is of significant concern to the Saskatchewan Financial Literacy Network (SFLN).

If Saskatchewan fails to maintain high educational standards for its young people, this will hamper our province's economy over the long-term. Action must clearly be taken now by the Ministry of Education, educators, families, and the business community so that this trend can be reversed.

Questions about why Saskatchewan students did not participate in the 2015 PISA financial literacy assessment must also be brought forward to our elected representatives and senior government officials. Financial literacy has been almost unanimously deemed to be of critical value to students and by missing the opportunity to establish a baseline through the 2015 PISA results, stakeholders will be prevented from monitoring progress and taking appropriate future actions in the area of improving financial literacy.

On behalf of the SFLN, I would like to congratulate the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce on its great work to promote financial literacy in Saskatchewan. I also strongly encourage you and your organization to continue advocating for the provincial government to participate in the next round of PISA financial literacy testing, as well as continue pressing the government to create a mandatory, stand-alone financial literacy class within Saskatchewan's K-12 curriculum.

Sincerely,



Randy Beattie
Chair, Saskatchewan Financial Literacy Network