



British Columbia Self Advocate Leadership Network Society

DATE: January 30, 2025

BCSALN News-sheet #15: Saskatchewan Specialized Support Classrooms

This News-sheet is a public document. Information, quotes, and questions are invited to be shared and included outside of BCSALN.

The majority of BCSALN members are part of provincial self-advocacy and advisory groups. BCSALN is aware and interested in the BC self-advocate movement. All BCSALN members are well-established and recognizable. All BCSALN members are from leading groups in the movement.

BCSALN Mission Statement:

To promote a good life through positive and informed: actions, networking and advocacy.

BCSALN would like to share the following:

We are very concerned by the Government of Saskatchewan's plans to increase segregated classrooms for some students instead of providing all students the right to inclusive education and the support they need to thrive with classmates their own age.



We support the Joint Press Release from Inclusion Canada & Inclusion Saskatchewan dated November 2024, which we understand to be summarized as:

People with disabilities are outraged by the Government of Saskatchewan’s plans to go back to segregated classrooms. They want to create classrooms that will separate some students with disabilities from their classmates.

People with disabilities and their allies have fought for years for students with disabilities to have the right to inclusive education in schools and not be separated.

The government’s decision is a step backwards and ignores student’s right to full inclusion in the classroom.

The research is clear – children who are segregated in school are much more likely to be segregated in life.

The right to inclusive education is guaranteed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which Canada signed in 2010.

Details of statement:

We believe that it is important to stand up for the UN Convention of Rights for Persons With Disabilities that



was signed by Canada in 2010. This includes the right to inclusive education.

BCSALN Comments:

What do you think about the Government of Saskatchewan creating segregated classrooms for some of the students (specialized support classrooms)? How does it make you feel?

The Government of Saskatchewan is at risk of violating people's rights to inclusive education.

Once this starts – where will it go? We need to address this strongly. This idea could spread to other provinces and territories and put more students at risk of being taken out of the classroom.

They are not thinking about the inclusive options that are helpful for all children and what they need for a successful educational experience. It is frightening to see that Saskatchewan is willing to violate the human rights of students.

Everyone has a right to be in the same classroom. Some students need breaks or different supports, but do not need to be segregated.

This is a violation of the rights of people with a disability. It is a violation of the rights of anyone in school. Everyone has the right to go to school without having to worry about being put in a program that is just for people with disabilities. People with disabilities want to be included.



We are all part of the community. We all have that right.

If a person is supported with appropriate supports, they can flourish in a regular school system – no matter what those supports look like.

What research has Saskatchewan done for creative solutions besides segregated classrooms for some students?

BCSALN has some ideas:

- All students should have access to a calm, supportive space.
- We need more support for teachers, more education assistants, smaller classrooms, and creative opportunities for – not segregated education.
- Saskatchewan could take best practices from other provinces and from the Saskatchewan school divisions that have already moved fully to inclusive education. There are many creative and successful models that Saskatchewan could adopt.
- There are many creative ways to ensure that any child can be included in a regular classroom. Saskatchewan needs to look at all models that work for all children.



We would like to thank all the supporters who have helped us along the way through our journey. We couldn't do it without you!

Please invite BCSALN to participate in creating and delivering solutions where it makes sense. BCSALN appreciates the support in sharing BCSALN content. To receive BCSALN content, email BCSALN at SALNBC19@gmail.com. Response can be sent to BCSALN at SALNBC19@gmail.com.

[www.Facebook.com/SALNBC](https://www.facebook.com/SALNBC)

www.BCSALN.com