2026/27

Creating Our Future: The Alberta Teachers' Association

Strategic Planning Grant Program

There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

–Margaret Wheatley

As a professional organization, the Association is facing significant changes. To adapt to these changes, the Association not only engages in strategic planning itself but also actively encourages all of its subgroups—convention associations, locals and specialist councils—to develop long-term strategic plans of their own.

To help subgroups engage in this kind of planning, the Association offers matching grants of up to $2,000 each to support initiatives not covered under normal subgroup operations. Subgroups can use these grants to offset the costs of organizing strategic planning activities to discuss their plans and set long-term goals. At the request of subgroups, the Association is available to support strategic planning activities and to clarify the relationship between its strategic framework and the leadership role of the subgroup.

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APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for grants, subgroups should submit a letter of application to Shelley Svidal at Barnett House (*shelley.svidal@ata.ab.ca)*. The letter must contain the following information:

1. The name of the subgroup
2. The name, mailing address, e-mail address and phone number of a contact person
3. The proposed date(s) and location of the activity (which must take place in 2026/27)
4. A brief (250-word) explanation of how the proposed activity addresses the long-term planning needs of the subgroup and aligns with the Association's strategic framework
5. A detailed budget, broken down by such key expenditures as travel, accommodation and teacher release

Applications will be considered in two rounds. The first deadline is **October 15, 2026,** following which applicants may be chosen to receive grants. The second deadline is **January 15, 2027**, following which additional applicants may be selected. Applicants who are not successful in the first round may be considered in the second round. In awarding grants, the Association takes into account such factors as previous strategic planning efforts, indication of working with other subgroups and alignment with the Association's strategic framework. The Association also attempts to support a variety of subgroups within the limits of the funds available, with grants awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Grants will not be paid until after the activity has taken place and the subgroup has submitted receipts of the costs incurred. Receipts for activities taking place in 2026/27 must be submitted by August 31, 2027.

The strategic framework is available on the ATA website at About>Strategic Framework.

Questions about the Strategic Planning Grant Program should be directed to Shelley Svidal, who can be contacted by phone at 780-447-9418 (Edmonton and area) or toll free at 1-800-232-7208 (from elsewhere in Alberta), by e-mail at shelley.svidal@ata.ab.ca or by mail at 11010 142 Street, Edmonton AB T5N 2R1.