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MLA Calls For Local Schools To Take on Independent Status

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton has called for more local schools to become Independent Public Schools to build on the success of the initiative.

"Education Minister Liz Constable has provided overwhelmingly positive feedback from the 34 Independent Public Schools that began at the start of the year and all have experienced a surge in community involvement," said Dr Nahan.

"Independent Public School boards have greater responsibility and input into the strategic direction of their local school in regards to curriculum and school assets, and also participate in the selection of the principal and staff, and the endorsement of school business plans."

"Board members also contribute in an important way to the running of their school by bringing their diverse wealth of knowledge and expertise to help drive innovation and reflect the needs and wishes of the local community."

"Rossmoyne Senior High School is the first school in this area to become an Independent Public School. It is currently advertising for parents, community members and industry representatives to step forward to become members of the new school board as part of that process."

"I encourage all local high schools and primary schools to consider applying to operate as an Independent Public School from 2011 through the second intake of the program. There's no doubt that the strong interest shown from the first round has demonstrated the desire for moving decision-making, responsibility and accountability closer to where it matters - the classroom."

Dr Nahan said Expressions of Interest from schools keen to join the next intake of Independent Public Schools close on April 27, giving them more than two months to consult with their communities and to submit an Expression of Interest.

"The successful schools under the next intake will then have a full semester to participate in the induction and transition program, and to prepare themselves to commence formal operation as an Independent Public School at the start of the 2011 school year," said Dr Nahan.

"I have written to all of the schools in this area to encourage them to take up this opportunity for the community to have significant input into the increased autonomy of their school by it becoming an Independent Public School."

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