



News release

For release:
June 27, 1995

"I am extremely pleased to approve Alberta's first charter school. Charter schools such as this one will provide the base for new initiatives in improving student learning."

Education Minister Halvar Jonson

First Charter School in Canada Approved

Education Minister Halvar Jonson has given the go-ahead for the first charter school in Alberta and in Canada to begin operations this September. The Education for the Gifted Society of Strathcona County has approval to establish a charter with the Elk Island Public School Division.

Stated Mr. Jonson: "The parents of gifted children and the Elk Island board have seized the opportunity to set up a charter school. The end result is that these students will have access to a program unlike any currently available in their school system."

Charter schools are intended to expand the range of opportunities within the Alberta education system by offering innovative or enhanced programs and delivery methods.

The Education for the Gifted Society will offer a program for between 75 and 200 students in grades K to 12. Children will move ahead at their own pace and do individual project work.

While governed by a charter school board and responsible for its own staffing and operations, the charter school's programs and progress will be monitored by the Elk Island board and Alberta Education.

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