

Would You Believe?

On February 5, 1992, results of the International Assessment of Educational Progress II were released. Alberta's science students scored an average of 76 percent on questions involving the integration of science knowledge, higher than any other country participating in the tests. On questions on the nature of science, Alberta's students scored an 84 percent average, again the highest average among all provinces and countries.

—*Alberta Education News Release,
February 5, 1992*

“Public schools have so many people to look after that they couldn't possibly meet everyone's needs.”

—*Parent promoter, Suzuki Elementary School,
Edmonton*

“People look for simple solutions, but it has not been shown that there's some magic in the private sector—and you can't say it hasn't been tried.”

—*David Sarasohn,
“Forever Profit Schools Are Not the Answer,”
The Oregonian, September 9, 1995*

Reductions in spending per capita for all provinces between 1992–93 and 1994–95 follow:

- *Health care.* Only three provinces have reduced spending—Ontario by \$27 per capita, Prince Edward Island by \$29 per capita and Alberta by \$163 per capita.
- *Welfare.* Only four provinces have reduced spending—Alberta by \$143 per capita, and the next closest is New Brunswick by \$65 per capita.
- *Education.* All but British Columbia have reduced their spending—Ontario by \$143 per capita, Alberta by \$138 per capita and all the others less than \$77 per capita.

—*“Toward an Affordable Government,”
Canada West Foundation, October 1995*

“If countries are to ‘live off their wits’ in the 21st century, then the only solution is ‘high levels of education for all,’ not just those who supposedly can afford it.”

—*George Walden,
Conservative MP for Buckingham, England,
quoted in the Times Educational Supplement,
August 4, 1995.
Betty Morris*