

November 15, 2019

You may have already heard the buzz, but now it's official! The Alberta Educational Purchasing Group (AEPG) is up and running and ready to provide a one-stop-shop for procurement opportunities and resources available to all K-12 school authorities in the province of Alberta. Feel free to forward this on to anyone within your organization that may benefit from the information.

Background

- In 2017, Alberta Education announced that they would no longer be establishing and maintaining the Alberta Education Standing Offers (AESO), which were utilized by many Alberta school authorities.
- Alberta Education engaged members of the Alberta school authority community to discuss potential concepts for a Provincial Brokering Model (PBM).
- The PBM Steering Committee and Working Group were formed and work started on the initiative in 2017/2018.
- The PBM Working Group determined several things:
 - Large metro boards already had administrative capacity and were in fact already tendering and establishing contracts for commonly used goods/services,
 - There were other purchasing 'consortiums' in the province, but none geared to school authorities and their specific needs,
 - Service Alberta supply arrangements were already in place for many commodities that could be used by Alberta school authorities,
 - The concept used by Service Alberta to allow Approved Organizations to participate in their contracts could also be used by school authorities to allow participation in the contracts they establish.

Alberta Educational Purchasing Group (AEPG)

- AEPG membership consists of procurement specialists from across six school authorities and three education organizations. The group has been working for the last year on implementing a model to support school authorities.
- The approach is a shared accountability and responsibility model; everyone is equal at the table.
- Shared expertise, experience and skills are leveraged to assist all schools in reducing costs and duplication, as well as creating administration efficiencies and building capacity.
- Participation by school authorities is voluntary.
- Provides an avenue for purchasing discussions to happen, resources to be shared and best practices to be established.
- The focus was to keep it simple for school authorities to access and use, and easy for contributing entities to manage.
- The goal is for AEPG to be the first place all K-12 school authorities go when they are considering a procurement opportunity.

AEPG Landing Page (<https://albertaepg.wixsite.com/website>)

- The AEPG landing page is the one-stop shop for K-12 School Authorities to access procurement opportunities and resources. A link to the page can also be found on the ASBOA home page under "Procurement Program (AEPG)".
- The page includes a 'Who We Are' section, links to the opportunity catalogue (e.g. listing of existing agreements) and additional resources, as well as an email address to be able to contact AEPG for questions or feedback.
- The resources section will be updated to include procurement-related templates, such as RfX and contract templates, samples and best practices.

A newsletter will be sent out through ASBOA on a regular basis to keep you informed of new initiatives and opportunities throughout the year.

If you have any questions regarding the AEPG or would like more information please contact:
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