

## Chapter 42

# Regina Public and Regina Catholic School Divisions— Physical Safety of Students

### 1.0 MAIN POINTS

By May 2017, Regina School Division No. 4 and Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 implemented all 13 remaining recommendations related to improving physical safety of students at school.

Regina School Division No. 4 (Regina Public) had improved accessibility of safety components (e.g., eyewash stations) and signage. It also assessed physical security, set requirements for air quality testing, and monitored the performance of its safety initiatives.

Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 (Regina Catholic) had implemented new safety manuals, improved emergency response kits and other safety components, reviewed physical security, provided guidance for placement of safety items (e.g., first aid kits), determined its needs for first aid trained staff, and set requirements for air quality testing. Its Board monitored the performance of its safety initiatives.

### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

*The Education Act, 1995* (Act) delegates responsibility for student safety to school divisions. Our original audit, as reported in our *2013 Report – Volume 1*, Chapter 13, included 17 recommendations about the processes of Regina School Division No. 4 and Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 (Regina school divisions) to provide for the physical safety of students at school. Our *2015 Report – Volume 2*, Chapter 52 reported at September 21, 2015, the Regina school divisions had implemented four recommendations.

This chapter reports the results of our assessment of each school division's progress in implementing the remaining 13 recommendations. To conduct this review engagement, we followed the standards for assurance engagements published in the *CPA Canada Handbook – Assurance*. To evaluate the school divisions' progress in implementing our recommendations, we used the relevant criteria from the original audit. Management of the Regina school divisions agreed with the criteria in the original audit.

To perform our follow up on our recommendations we discussed actions taken with management, reviewed relevant documentation, and observed whether actions had been implemented in selected schools.

### 3.0 STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS—REGINA PUBLIC

This section sets out each recommendation including the date on which the Standing Committee on Public Accounts agreed to the recommendation, the status of the recommendation at May 31, 2017, and Regina Public's actions up to that date. We found that Regina Public had implemented all five recommendations.



### 3.1 Key Safety Measures Implemented

***We recommended that Regina School Division No. 4 develop processes to keep safety components (e.g., eyewash stations, emergency exits) accessible in science labs and shop areas.*** (2013 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

Safety components such as eyewash stations and emergency eyewash kits were accessible in science labs and shop areas in the Regina Public schools we visited.

***We recommended that Regina School Division No. 4 determine the appropriate location for placement of safety-related signage and safety items such as fire extinguishers and first aid kits in schools.*** (2013 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

First aid and safety items were accessible and clearly marked in the Regina Public schools we visited. Regina Public developed and implemented administrative procedures that guide placement of safety related signage and items.

***We recommended that Regina School Division No. 4 assess the level of physical security required for each school in the division.*** (2013 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

Regina Public assessed levels of security at its schools (elementary and high school). Regina Public has identified schools that require an increased level of security and was working on completing and installing the identified security (e.g., video surveillance) in schools.

***We recommended that Regina School Division No. 4 develop requirements for air quality testing to be conducted when construction takes place during the year.*** (2013 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

Regina Public developed and implemented a procedure that includes requirements to conduct air quality testing during construction projects at schools. According to school officials during our school visits, no construction had taken place during the 2016-17 school year.

***We recommended that Regina School Division No. 4 develop performance measures and targets related to student safety and report on these measures and targets periodically to its Board.*** (2013 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

The Board of Regina Public has delegated responsibility for monitoring student safety to the Director of Education. We found the Director of Education is receiving status reports on a quarterly basis related to student safety performance measures.

## 4.0 STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS—REGINA CATHOLIC

This section sets out each recommendation including the date on which the Standing Committee on Public Accounts agreed to the recommendation, the status of the recommendation at May 31, 2017, and Regina Catholic's actions up to that date. We found that Regina Catholic had implemented all eight recommendations.

### 4.1 Key Safety Measures Implemented

***We recommended that Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 develop and implement safety manuals to be used by schools to guide safety and maintenance for all science labs and shop areas in its practical and applied arts programs.*** (2013 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

We found safety components for shop and science classes were implemented as part of the curriculum. During our visits to selected schools, we observed that safety information and guidance is included in course materials provided to students. Regina Catholic hired an external firm to complete safety reviews of the science labs and shop areas. The information from these reports has been used by the Division to develop safety manual components of the curriculum used at schools.

***We recommended that Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 review its practices for emergency response kits and provide guidance to schools on the required contents of kits.*** (2013 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

During visits to schools, we observed that schools had emergency response kits, which included the required items. Regina Catholic has developed an Emergency Response Guide, which has been provided to its schools and administrators. We found that this Guide includes a list of required items for emergency response kits.

***We recommended that Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 develop processes to keep safety components (e.g., eyewash stations, emergency exits) accessible in science labs and shop areas.*** (2013 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

Safety components such as eyewash stations and emergency eyewash kits were accessible in science labs and shop areas in the Regina Catholic schools we visited. Regina Catholic hired an external firm to complete a review of science labs and practical and applied arts areas. The Division implemented changes based on these reviews and added employees who are responsible for annually reviewing safety in science labs and practical and applied arts areas.



***We recommended that Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 assess the level of physical security required for each school.*** (2013

Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

We observed locked doors at all schools we visited and a video surveillance system where the Division assessed a need for such. Regina Catholic has developed and implemented a safety audit questionnaire, which has been completed by its schools to gather information on physical security.

***We recommended that Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 define the number of first aid trained staff required in each school.***

(2013 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

Regina Catholic has defined the number of first aid trained staff required. Regina Catholic monitors changes in staff and schools annually to determine first aid training required for staff.

***We recommended that Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 determine the appropriate location for placement of safety-related signage and safety items such as fire extinguishers and first aid kits in schools.*** (2013 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

At schools we visited, we saw complete first aid and safety items that were accessible and marked. Regina Catholic hired an external firm to complete safety reviews of science labs and shop areas. Part of these reviews included placement of safety equipment and related signage where needed.

***We recommended that Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 develop requirements for air quality testing to be conducted when construction takes place during the year.*** (2013 Report – Volume 1; Public

Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

Regina Catholic hires experts when construction is needed at schools and relies on their expertise to determine the timing of air quality testing. Construction takes place over the summer when students and staff are on summer break. According to school officials during our school visits, no construction had taken place during the 2016-17 school year.

***We recommended that Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 develop performance measures and targets related to student safety and report on these measures and targets periodically to its Board.*** (2013 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 18, 2015)

**Status** – Implemented

We found Regina Catholic requires reporting to the Board on student safety, which includes performance measures. Regina Catholic has implemented annual reporting requirements on student safety to its Board.