



## LETTER TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS RE S-TRIP SOLICITATION

Dear parents and students of Bev Facey Community High School:

### **RE: Illegal solicitation of students on behalf of S-Trip**

We are writing to advise you of a serious issue potentially involving our students.

A company called S-Trip has made it a habit to market its summer “graduation” trips to foreign beach locations to our students each year without permission. They recruit students from within the school, offering them a deeply-discounted price for their own trip if they can get classmates to sign up for these excursions.

We want to warn you that if your child is approached about marketing this trip, they should be made aware that it is actually illegal to pitch or sell on behalf of S-Trip. Soliciting business in schools is strictly forbidden by section 27(2) of the Alberta *School Act*, which states that no person shall canvass, sell or offer to sell goods, services or merchandise to a teacher or a student in a school without the prior approval of the Board. Those who are found in violation – including student recruits – risk being fined up to \$1000.

In addition and more importantly, these trips are often misrepresented as being organized or sanctioned by the school (with disclaimers buried deeply in the small print of their brochures). As a result, many parents have mistakenly assumed that this is a school-organized trip, supervised by teachers and covered by school division liability insurance. **Elk Island Public Schools has nothing to do with these trips.** Parents need to understand that it is not at all clear to what extent students are supervised and that all risks inherent in international travel rest completely with the students and their families. Prior to signing up, we encourage parents to do extensive research into S-Trip and make an informed decision about the trip they may be considering for their children.

We have respectfully requested that S-Trip cease and desist in its activities in the past but their efforts to promote their trips persist. This year, they have been sent a strong warning by Division legal counsel that we hope will discourage this activity. We ask that you be vigilant in the event that your child is approached to work for the company or to participate in a graduation trip next summer.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Paul Pallister - Principal  
Bev Facey Community High School