

**Summary Page - May 2016 - Strategic Plan**  
**“Look Up - Climb Up - What do we see?”**  
**Shade Holmes - Principal (Consultant - Henry Contant)**  
**Medicine Hat Christian School (MHCS) Alberta, Canada**

**What We Need:**

A strategic plan to determine and benchmark how we are fulfilling our school mission and vision. School growth has doubled over the last ten years and we need a long term plan for our programming and our facility.

**What We Did:**

- Consulted with Henry Contant (Van Lunen) and our Christian Association (Prairie Centre for Christian Education - PCCE) to coordinate a School Town Hall for January 2016.
- Initiated a Christian School Growth Program through PCCE to measure and assess how we are meeting our school mission and vision. In conjunction with Cardus, we engaged in surveys and have plans to continue the surveys for the next five years.
- Instituted two parent task forces out of the town hall feedback. Feedback from the town hall was clear. Parents and the community were concerned about space and wanted us to explore expansion (task force one - expansion opportunities). Parents and community members also wanted to explore the possibility of adding high school - grade 10, 11, and 12 (task force two - high school). Currently we are a kindergarten to grade nine school.
- Summarized results from the town hall, task forces, and work of the Board (Society Executive) to create a long term strategic plan for the next ten years for Medicine Hat Christian School. The strategic plan was presented to parents on May 31, 2016.
- Begin a process for Society Executive to *visually map* the strategic plan in terms of: (1) the Christian School Growth Program-Cardus (2) programming and curriculum - high school and early learning (3) facilities expansion (4) financial stewardship (5) governance structures (roles of volunteers/parents) (6) a strong relationship with SD 76.

**What I Learned:**

The strategic plan was just a first step in the journey, but we needed a starting point. Through this process Society Executive engaged parents effectively through town hall and parent task forces. We engaged in the most important kinds of conversations about Christian schooling and our mission and vision. On a personal note, I learned there is a support network not just at my school and district but in the wider community as well (Henry Contant and Van Lunen). Thank you Van Lunen for your support for me personally and especially for Medicine Hat Christian School.