

SSBA and The Mosaic Company Support Breakfast for Learning

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association and The Mosaic Company on April 17 announced the "SSBA Centennial Nutrition Donation" of \$35,000 to support the capital needs of Breakfast for Learning programs in Saskatchewan.

The donation, which will be provided to eligible Saskatchewan Breakfast for Learning school programs, is to be used for capital purchases of equipment for food preparation and storage.

"The Saskatchewan School Boards Association is very proud to be a supporter of Breakfast for Learning," said SSBA President Connie Bailey. "This donation honours the legacy of trusteeship in the province during the Year of the Trustee and the SSBA centennial, and leaves a gift to school divisions in recognition of the SSBA's strategic partnership with Mosaic and BFL."

The "SSBA Centennial Nutrition Donation" is the result of a continued partnership.

"Mosaic is proud to continue to support Breakfast for Learning in Saskatchewan. As a company, we understand the importance of



Centennial Nutrition Donation Cheque Presentation at Spring Assembly

providing children the nourishment they need to learn and grow. Our contribution towards the purchase of equipment will provide a lasting impact for generations to come," said Sarah Fedorchuk, Senior Director of Public Affairs for Mosaic.

As Canada's first, and one of its largest, charities focusing on nourishing children, Breakfast for Learning has been helping to support and sustain school-based breakfast, lunch and snack programs for more than 20 years.

"Our students are our future leaders, and investing in their learning through nutrition programs is vital to their success," said Breakfast for Learning's Director of

Community and Organizational Development, Kelly Berlinic.

"Breakfast for Learning is proud to work with the Saskatchewan School Boards Association and The Mosaic Company to ensure all students have the nourishment they need to succeed at school."

Since 2004, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association has partnered with Breakfast for Learning to help ensure students are well nourished and ready to learn.

The "SSBA Centennial Nutrition Donation" will be administered by Breakfast for Learning and schools eligible under Breakfast for Learning's criteria will be able to apply for a share of the funding.

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Local Considerations and Engagement Top Priorities for School Boards

The system for funding education for the province's students is working well in many areas and would be improved by better engagement regarding local considerations, according to the membership of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association.

"There are 28 boards of education in Saskatchewan and each school division has unique local circumstances," SSBA President Connie Bailey said.

"Our members have identified that building better understandings of local situations among boards and with the provincial government as a top priority for improving funding distribution," she added.

For the 2015-16 budget year, Saskatchewan's school boards participated in a new system of evaluating provincial budget allocations based on how well they reflected the principles set out in the SSBA's position statement on

education finance, which was approved by the membership.

The eight principles are: sufficiency, autonomy, equity, engagement, predictability, reciprocal accountability, sustainability and transparency.

"The eight principles carefully take into account the fact that education financing includes far more than just the amount of funding provided," Bailey said.

"We want to identify areas in which our members collectively agree things are working well, as well as areas in which they think there is room for improvement, so that government and boards of education can work together to ensure the needs of our students are best being met," she added.

On average, boards provided mid-range grades in all areas, indicating that some expectations are being met, although there is room for improvement.

Engagement was the top priority for improvement identified by boards. Comments regarding engagement were also received in all areas of the evaluation. Members indicated that increased engagement with individual school divisions in determining how funding is allocated is needed to reflect local considerations. Genuine consultation is desired by members.

Autonomy received the highest grade from boards on average. Although school boards are no longer able to set tax rates, it was clear in comments from members that they appreciate autonomy remains as to how boards are able to spend dollars allocated to them.

Regarding the 2015-16 provincial budget, respondents to the evaluation were pleased that the province made education a priority despite the year's fiscal challenges.

Many comments centered on the change in this year's funding allocation from using projected enrolment numbers to the previous year's enrolment numbers, with members reporting that this change had a negative effect in evaluating many of the principle areas.

Members were also pleased with Education Minister Don Morgan's commitment to review the funding formula for education in Saskatchewan and appointment of Dan Perrins to lead the review.

"The SSBA and its members are committed to supporting that review," Bailey said.

"School boards firmly believe that all students should have the resources they need to succeed, regardless of where they live in the province or their personal circumstances," she added.



SSBA President Connie Bailey discusses the provincial budget with media

President Bailey Addresses Spring General Assembly



President Connie Bailey addresses the Spring General Assembly of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association

During her President's Address at Spring Assembly, Connie Bailey revisited the theme that has underpinned SSBA board development events during the 2014-15 calendar year.

"In this sector, it truly is all about relationships – those that we have as stakeholders in education and most importantly, the relationship with students," Bailey said.

"As this Spring Assembly marks the last event under the banner of 'Building Relationships to Build Success,' I would like to take this opportunity tonight to provide some reflections on the many ways in which we have achieved this in recent months and on what future plans are underway," she continued.

Bailey discussed the importance of the relationship with the provincial government.

"It is imperative, and incumbent upon us, to make sure we are collaborating with the government

in partnership, and to make sure views of locally elected school boards are reflected in government decision making and vice-versa," she said, thanking Minister Don Morgan for his attendance and board members for their support.

Bailey also discussed the relationship between boards and teachers and the recent successes of the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee and the Joint Committee on Student and Teacher Time.

"We will be looking for further engagement and collaboration opportunities to ensure we are continually building our relationships based on accountability and trust," she said.

Bailey also highlighted several other examples of recent and upcoming successes resulting from building relationships, including the Education Sector Strategic Plan, the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program, last fall's Joint Conference

with LEADS and SASBO and this summer's National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education and Canadian School Boards Association Annual Congress.

She also spoke to relationships between school boards and the role served by the SSBA in that regard, pointing to services that are used and appreciated by members and that result in cost savings.

She also commented on the SSBA governance review underway, as well as celebrating the Association's anniversary in the 'Year of the School Trustee' in Saskatchewan.

"Relationships have been established, but there is still more building to do. Successes have been realized, but there is much work ahead," Bailey remarked in concluding her address.

"Our organization and our sector face many challenges and opportunities, but together, our relationships will see us through."

Photos – Spring General Assembly, April 16-17



Photos – Spring General Assembly, April 16-17



Presenters – Spring General Assembly, April 16-17



The Honourable Don Morgan, Minister of Education, brings greetings to the Spring General Assembly of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association on behalf of Premier Brad Wall and his government



After her presentation on the history of trusteeship, former SSBA Director of Communications Leslie Anderson is presented a star blanket by President Connie Bailey and Executive Director Darren McKee



Representatives from the Chinook School Division present to Spring Assembly about their award-winning Reading Program during the Education Sector Strategic Plan Reading Hoshin session



Ron Anderson, Assistant Deputy Minister of Corrections and Policing with the provincial Ministry of Justice, presents about The Hub and COR Model – "The Evolution of Community Mobilization"

Looking Forward: Governance Matters

While taking time this year to “Look Back” to honour trustees and celebrate the 100th anniversary of their Association, the eyes of the Provincial Executive are also firmly fixed on the future.

As the Association moves into its second century of existence, its leadership is invested in making changes that are necessary to ensure the SSBA continues to provide leadership, coordination and services to member boards to support student achievement.

One piece that is critical looking forward is reviewing the mandate and governance of the Association and that work has been underway over the last two years.

Led by experts from the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, details of the mandate

clarification and next steps were presented and discussed at Spring Assembly. Next steps include bringing a framework of the SSBA governance structure to Members’ Council in September and then at Fall Assembly in November, the mandate and, if required, any governance structure changes, will be brought forward to the membership for a decision.

The leadership of the SSBA wants to thank boards for their continued commitment to this review.

The important and challenging work will determine the future of this organization and ensure that the SSBA is on the right track toward its future goals, including Vision 2025: that by 2025, Saskatchewan has a globally recognized education system that others wish to emulate.



Wynne Young of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy gives an update on the governance review at April's Spring Assembly in Regina

School Board Member Education and Certification Program



Members of the second cohort are presented pins by Donna Johnson, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, during Spring General Assembly

A pin presentation at Spring Assembly recognized those about to complete the School Board Member Education and Certification Program as part of the second cohort.

The SSBA's partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and Brown Governance Inc. has enabled trustees from across the province to complete the valuable and beneficial training.

The eight trustees who were recognized at Spring Assembly are:

- Ray Morrison
- Jerome Niezgoda
- Dwight Guy
- Dan Danielson
- Joe Daigneault
- Kathleen Brannen
- Theresa Wilson
- Holly Kelleher

Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence

2014 Submission:

Relationships, Relevance and Rigor –
The Journey to Higher Graduate Rates for All Students
Light of Christ Catholic Schools



A "Graduating Class of 2027" from Light of Christ

Over the past seven years, Light of Christ Catholic Schools has been on a journey to establish a foundational learning environment to facilitate the graduation of all students. Structural and pedagogical changes have resulted in continual increases in student achievement.

The most notable growth has been in the First Nations and Métis graduation rate – the three-year on-time rate has grown to 70 per cent.

According to the division's awards submission, there is "no silver bullet, no one-shot deal, no magic pill" to improve rates of student achievement.

Rather, it takes a focused, consistent and sustained system-wide approach based on solid research and best practice.

2014 Submission:

First Nations and Métis Student Achievement and Graduation Rates
at Stobart Community School, Duck Lake, Sask.
Prairie Spirit School Division



The busy common area of Stobart Community School

Stobart Community School's student population is 90 per cent First Nations and Métis.

Stobart's graduation rate exceeds the provincial non-Aboriginal rate and more than doubles the First Nations and Métis rate, with every Grade 12 Stobart student graduating on time in 2013-14.

The school's success is not due to a singular formula or program, according to Prairie Spirit's awards submission. Rather, it is the result of incremental success.

The high levels of achievement are the result of a collective focus on the necessary supports for learning that begins in the early years and continues through to high-school graduation and transitions to career and post-secondary.

To read full submissions for the Premier's Award, see the SSBA website under [Awards](#).

Planning Continues for CSBA Congress in Saskatoon

Online registration and full program details are now available for the Canadian School Boards Association 2015 Congress, which is being held in beautiful Saskatoon from July 2 to July 4.

The theme of the Congress is Education – Let's Grow Communities! The theme reflects the grassroots importance of education in supporting growth in our communities. The Congress is being presented by the CSBA and the SSBA.

Four-time Olympic medalist Hayley Wickenheiser is the keynote speaker for the Congress. Other

presenters announced for the Congress include Paul Martin, former Canadian prime minister and founder of the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative; Ken Krawetz, finance minister of Saskatchewan; Darcy Bear, chief of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation; Bob Pringle, Saskatchewan advocate for children and youth; and, Zarqa Nawaz.

A student panel is also on the agenda for the Congress. Various workshop options have been announced, as well, and are available for delegates to consider. The workshops are from presenters from across the country.

Prior to the Congress, the National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education will also take place in Saskatoon, on June 30 and July 1. All school board trustees are invited to register to participate in that event as well.

Saskatchewan looks forward to welcoming delegates for this exciting Congress. The program includes many opportunities for learning and networking with other leaders in education.

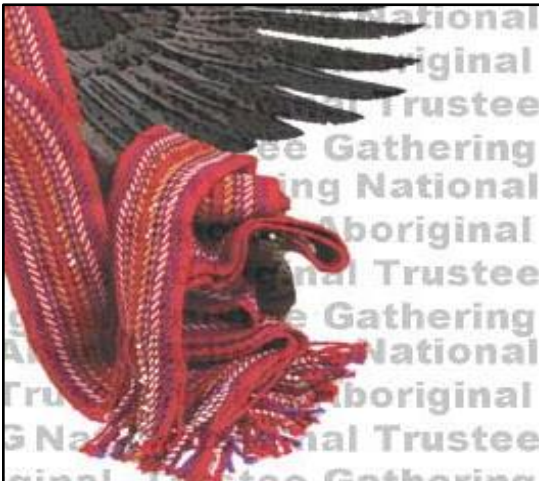
For more information on presenters, programming and hotels, please visit the website for the Congress at csba2015.ca.



EDUCATION

Let's Grow Communities!

CSBA Congress
July 2-4, 2015, Saskatoon, SK.



"Honouring Our Past to Inspire Success"

National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Date: June 30, 2015 - Wanuskewin Heritage Park
July 1, 2015 - Sheraton Cavalier Hotel.

All School Board Trustees are invited to attend.
Mark your calendars!

Visit www.csba2015.ca for more details

April Provincial Executive Meeting Highlights



Sask. Association of School Business Officials President Justin Arendt



Representatives from the Canadian Union of Public Employees Sask.



Julie MacRae, Deputy Minister of Education, Don Morgan, Minister of Education and Donna Johnson, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education

The Provincial Executive of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association met in Regina on April 15 and 16. The following is a brief summary of some items discussed:

- An update of the progress and next steps for the SSBA Governance Review was provided to the Executive for their information.
- The Executive received and approved the report on Employee Engagement in Saskatchewan School Divisions from the Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit. The report captures important current research, themes and practices occurring in organizations with highly engaged employees. Building on the work of the Joint Committee on Student Teacher Time, this report can be used as a springboard for further discussion in the Saskatchewan K-12 education sector toward a consistent employee engagement strategy. The report will be shared with boards and partners to continue conversation and focus on shared work with respect to employee engagement.

- The Executive welcomed several delegations for discussion and information sharing on topics of common interest. The delegations included SASBO, The Honourable Don Morgan, Minister of Education, and representatives from the Ministry of Education, and representatives from CUPE.

- In round-table discussions, Executive members discussed specific issues related to their constituencies and provided committee updates.

The minutes of the meeting will be posted after they have been approved and will be available online under Executive.

Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program Success Story

Joshua Hill, a student in the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program from the Onion Lake Cree Nation, was awarded a \$5,000 Youth Financial Literacy Award Scholarship from the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association for an essay he wrote on financial literacy.

Hill, a Grade 12 student, and Kevin Spahich, his AYEP instructor at

Eagleview Comprehensive High School, travelled to Winnipeg in February to receive the award. The award-winning student delivered his essay in a speech to more than 1,000 delegates, including business and political leaders from across Canada.

The AYEP is part of the SSBA's focus on supporting improved

academic outcomes for Aboriginal students in the province.

Saskatchewan was the first Canadian jurisdiction to launch the AYEP provincially, led by the SSBA, in partnership with the program developers Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative, and with the generous support of funding partners AANDC and PotashCorp.



Leanne Bellegarde of AYEP funding partner PotashCorp and award winner Joshua Hill in Winnipeg



AYEP student Joshua Hill speaks at the AFOA Canada Conference



AYEP Student Joshua Hill attends an NHL hockey game while in Winnipeg to receive his award



Joshua Hill and instructor Kevin Spahich visit the Human Rights Museum while in Winnipeg



The AFOA Canada Conference awards night ceremony, where Joshua Hill was honoured for an essay he wrote



"The mission of the SSBA is to provide leadership, coordination and services to member boards of education to support student achievement."

President:

Connie Bailey

Vice-President:

Ronna Pethick

Northern Constituency:

Janine Boucher

Aboriginal Constituency:

William Caisse

Conseil scolaire fransaskois Constituency:

Élizabeth Perrault

Urban Public Constituency:

Kevin Waugh

Catholic Constituency:

Jerome Niezgod

Central Constituency:

Larry Pavloff

Southern Constituency:

Janet Kotylak

Executive Director:

Darren McKee

Strategic Board Development Services and Human Resources:

Ted Amendt

Communications Services:

Jill Welke

Insurance, Risk Management and Legal Services:

Dave Jackson

Employee Benefits Plan:

Jeff McNaughton

First Nations and Métis Education:

Jamie Lerat

Corporate Services:

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If you would prefer to receive *The School Trustee* by hard copy, please contact the Association at the email address above.

Calendar Update

Upcoming Events in 2015:

Employee Benefits Plan Seminar

(in partnership with SASBO)

May 6-8

Delta Bessborough, Saskatoon, Sask.

National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education

June 30-July 1

Sheraton Hotel and Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatoon, Sask.

CSBA Congress 2015

July 2-4

Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon, Sask.

For more information, see the SSBA website under [Events](#).

Staff Update: Jill Welke

Jill Welke joined the SSBA in March as the Association's new Director of Communications.

Jill has diverse experience in communications and is always passionate about promoting programs and services that benefit the people of Saskatchewan.

Prior to joining the SSBA, she served as the Executive Director of Communications and Sector Relations with the provincial Ministry of Education. Before that, Jill was Director of Communications for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Intergovernmental Affairs and Office of the Provincial Secretary with the Government of Saskatchewan.

Jill also brings experience to her new role from her background as Manager of Communications for the Regina Regional Economic Development Authority and as Communications Coordinator for the MacKenzie Art Gallery.

She is a sessional instructor with the University of Regina, Centre for

Continuing Education in the Credit Studies Program (Public Relations).

Her academic credentials include holding a degree in communications with a specialization in public relations, as well as a leadership development certificate.

Jill loves gardening, music and art, but most appreciates time with her partner Scott and their three-year-old daughter, Lauren.



*Jill Welke
Director of Communications*