

Treaty Symbols Presented to School Board Chairs



During the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) Spring General Assembly in April, school board chairs from across the province were presented with treaty symbols by Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations 2nd Vice-Chief David Pratt. Treaty Commissioner Mary Culbertson was in attendance for the event in Saskatoon.

The SSBA recognizes that it is important for all Canadians to learn

about Treaties, what they represent and how they shaped the country.

To continue supporting and strengthening efforts related to Treaty education, the SSBA Indigenous Constituency submitted a resolution at the SSBA 2017 Fall General Assembly that all school boards be encouraged to display the Treaty Symbol within their schools and board offices. This resolution passed with strong support.

In 2018, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and the SSBA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Reconciliation through Treaty Education. The MOU represents commitment to working to address systemic discrimination in the spirit and intent of Treaty partnerships and as partners in reconciliation.

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Spring General Assembly 2019 – Apr. 11-12, Saskatoon



TransformSK – Steve McLellan and Mark Cooper
Sask. Chamber and Sask. Construction Assoc.



President's Address – Dr. Shawn Davidson
Saskatchewan School Boards Association



Greetings – Hon. Gordon Wyant
Deputy Premier and Minister of Education



Parent Engagement – Dr. Debbie Pushor
University of Saskatchewan

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION: A SHARED VISION

The theme of the 2019 Saskatchewan School Boards Association Spring General Assembly was “Creating a Vision for Education: 2020 and Beyond” in connection to the education visioning work currently underway in the province.

The current Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) ends in 2020 and the Ministry of Education and education partners, including the SSBA, are working toward co-constructing a new Provincial Education Plan that will shape the future of education for 2020 to 2030. This engagement process

began with the provincial education summit in October last year.

School boards are now having conversations about the future of education and are actively leading engagements with parents, students and community members throughout the province to bring local perspectives and community voice to this process.

The main questions are:

1. What knowledge, skills and abilities do students need to be prepared for their future life and learning? Why are these important?
2. What gets in the way of student success and well-being?
3. What is working well now in Saskatchewan’s school system that prepares students for their future?
4. What needs to change in Saskatchewan’s school system in order to better prepare students for their future?

The government has also launched an online survey. This survey will be open for public feedback until May 10.

The survey can be completed online at the following link:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/provincial-education-plan/provide-your-feedback>

School Boards Share Priorities, Respond to 2019-20 Provincial Budget



SSBA President Shawn Davidson and Vice-President Aleana Young at the Legislative Building in March for the release of the provincial budget

Saskatchewan school boards continue to call for increased investment in education, but recognize the priority areas they have identified were reflected in the provincial government's budget for 2019-20 released in March.

"Investment means being able to do more than maintain the status quo," said Dr. Shawn Davidson, president of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA). "While some funding previously cut is being restored, this budget falls short of even status-quo levels, as

opposed to the investment we wanted to see for students."

The budget included some restoration of operational funding that was significantly cut two years ago, but the increase was not enough to fully meet pressures of growth and inflation. The budget did include announcements on designing new schools, continuing capital projects underway and increasing infrastructure maintenance and renewal. It also recognized salary increases for the provincial teacher agreement.

"We appreciate our priorities are being heard, though levels in this budget will not enable school boards to make significant new investment," Davidson said.

"Boards will be challenged just to maintain stability," he added.

Prior to the release of the provincial budget, the SSBA communicated that if investment in education was increased beyond the status quo, school boards in Saskatchewan envision early years and mental health as two high priorities for additional support.

"We surveyed our member school boards across the province about their highest priorities and those two themes emerged consistently," Davidson said.

"We could affect outcomes in these areas if we had increased investment. At the same time, these are areas in which we won't be able to provide additional supports if funding for education remains at status-quo levels," he added.

Davidson explained that 'status quo' funding for boards in the 2019-20 provincial budget would have meant funding levels that reflect enrolment growth and inflation, while 'beyond the status quo' would have meant additional funding to enable improved investment.

"We want to communicate what improved investment in education means to school boards in Saskatchewan," Davidson said.

"Boards have worked hard to limit the impacts of funding cuts made two years ago, while continuing to face growth and inflation pressures. But we also have identified priorities for the future," he continued.



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

President:

Dr. Shawn Davidson

Vice-President:

Aleana Young

Catholic Constituency:

Jerome Niezgoda

Central Constituency:

Jaimie Smith-Windsor

Conseil scolaire francaskois Constituency:

Martin Prince

Indigenous Constituency:

Joe Daigneault

Northern Constituency:

Jansen Corrigan

Southern Constituency:

Janet Kotylak

Urban Public Constituency:

Donna Banks

Executive Director:

Darren McKee

Communications Services:

Jill Welke

Corporate Services:

Catherine Vu

Employee Benefits and Insurance Plans:

Jeff McNaughton

First Nations and Métis Education:

Jamie Lerat

School Board Development, Strategic Human Resources and Legal 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 2019:

2019 National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress
Toronto – July 3-7

SSBA Fall General Assembly
Regina – Nov. 17-19

<https://saskschoolboards.ca/events/>

Association Activity

The SSBA General Insurance Plan Loss Control and Prevention Seminar was held in Saskatoon in March and was attended by 33 delegates from 20 school divisions. Based on the feedback received, the seminar provided excellent value to participants and the knowledge gained can improve how they manage their facilities, thereby reducing losses. Loss prevention is an important aspect of Enterprise Risk Management for school divisions and the SSBA General Insurance Plan continues to provide educational opportunities for school divisions in this area.

