HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION

Nomination for the Saskatchewan School Boards Association Award of Distinction

Jennifer Lemky



Jennifer Lemky
Former Trustee Subdivision 3

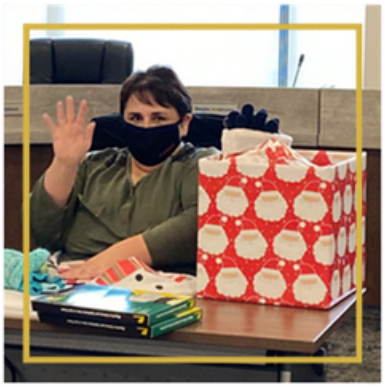
Jennifer Lemky has demonstrated nearly 14 years of exemplary service to public education, marked by principled governance, provincial leadership, and a sustained commitment to student success across Saskatchewan. First elected to the Horizon School Division Board of Education in November 2012, she has served communities with integrity, diligence, and a clear focus on strengthening public education.

Throughout her tenure as Trustee and Board Vice Chair, Jennifer has contributed meaningfully to effective school board governance, Indigenous education and reconciliation, rural education, community engagement, student well-being, and provincial public education initiatives.

Her record reflects the qualities recognized by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association Award of Distinction: leadership, service, accountability, and dedication to Saskatchewan students.

Who Is Jennifer Lemky?

Jennifer Lemky's commitment to education and community service is rooted in her rural Saskatchewan upbringing and her longstanding dedication to helping others.



Jennifer Lemky

Raised in Plunkett and a resident of Viscount since the late 1990s, Jennifer has strong connections to the communities she represented throughout her nearly 14 years on the Horizon School Division Board of Education. First elected in November 2012, she represented Nokomis, Viscount Central, Watrous Elementary and Winston High Schools.

Jennifer's background in health care, including her work as a Licensed Practical Nurse and 20 years of service as a volunteer medical responder, brought a valuable perspective to her role as a trustee. Her experience also included working as an Educational Assistant, providing her with firsthand knowledge of the school environment and the importance of supporting students with diverse needs.

Her involvement in education began as a parent and School Community Council member while her children attended school. That experience eventually led to her service as a trustee, providing an opportunity to continue supporting the students, families, and communities she knows so well.

Jennifer's commitment to service has been guided by a belief in gratitude, lifelong learning, and the importance of ensuring students have the tools, opportunities and supports they need to succeed.

1. Strengthening School Board Governance

Jennifer Lemky's commitment to public education began with her election to the Horizon School Division Board of Education in November 2012. Throughout her nearly 14 years of service, she demonstrated thoughtful leadership, sound judgement, and a strong sense of responsibility. Her service included a term as Board Vice Chair and several years as Governance Committee Chair, contributing to effective decision-making and accountable governance.

Jennifer's leadership extended beyond Horizon through her participation in the Saskatchewan School Boards Association's Trustee Code of Ethics Working Advisory Group, which developed the 2023 SSBA Code of Conduct Policy Advisory. This provincial resource provided Saskatchewan school boards with guidance on ethical standards, accountability, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, and appropriate trustee conduct.

> "I had the wonderful opportunity to work with Jennifer on a couple of external SSBA committees. Jennifer came prepared, on time, and was always willing to work hard and put students at the forefront of her decisions. She was thoughtful and willing to listen to other committee members' thoughts and work towards the best decisions. I enjoyed her sense of humour and passion for Education. She will be missed by Horizon School Division and all Trustees across the province."
>
> Donna Banks - Chair Saskatoon Public Schools

As Horizon's Governance Committee Chair, Jennifer was instrumental in bringing this provincial work back to the Division and supporting the implementation of Horizon's Trustee Code of Conduct. Her contributions demonstrate how provincial collaboration can strengthen governance practices at the local level.

Jennifer also chaired Horizon's Election Committee, leading its work in developing Policy 18 – School Board Elections, which was subsequently incorporated into Board Policy. In addition, as Governance Committee Chair, she served on the Board's Transportation Committee, which reviewed the Division's transportation services and recommended transitioning to fully contracted transportation services. Both initiatives reflect her involvement in significant policy development and decision-making within Horizon.

Her commitment to continuous learning is further demonstrated by her completion of the Johnson Shoyama Public Sector Governance Certificate, strengthening her knowledge of public sector governance and supporting her leadership as a trustee.

2. Advancing Indigenous Education and Reconciliation

Jennifer Lemky has shown sustained commitment to Indigenous education and reconciliation through both local and provincial involvement. Her work has included membership in the SSBA Indigenous Council, and the SSBA Indigenous Constituency, where she contributed to conversations and initiatives supporting Indigenous education, representation, and reconciliation in Saskatchewan schools. Her learning has included participation in a range of Indigenous education and reconciliation opportunities, including Walk Alongside, Awâsis, Aboriginal World Views, CSBA Conference and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education, and the Indigenous Language Summit. These experiences reflect her commitment to listening, learning, and supporting meaningful action in public education.

Jennifer's support for Indigenous education has also been reflected in Horizon School Division's work, including support for the Division's award-winning Tipi Project. This initiative represents an important contribution to cultural learning, respect, and reconciliation, while helping students and school communities engage with Indigenous knowledge and traditions in meaningful ways.

Through this work, Jennifer has demonstrated that reconciliation in education requires sustained commitment, humility, and action. Her involvement has supported broader efforts to create learning environments grounded in respect, understanding, and inclusion.

3. Championing Rural Education and Community

Jennifer's commitment to education began through her involvement with School Community Councils while her children attended school. She continued that service as a trustee and member of Horizon's SCC Engagement Committee, recognizing the important contributions families and community members make to public education. Having grown up in Plunkett and lived in Viscount for many years, Jennifer brought a strong understanding of the communities she represented and valued opportunities to connect with students, families, and staff in her local schools. Her support for community engagement reflects a belief that strong schools are built through meaningful partnerships among trustees, educators, families, students, and communities.

Her commitment to rural education extended to the provincial level through her regular attendance at the National Congress on Rural Education, where she participated in professional learning and discussions focused on the opportunities and challenges facing rural schools. Her engagement in these conversations reflected her commitment to ensuring rural education remained visible, valued, and supported within Saskatchewan's education landscape.

Jennifer's provincial involvement also included three years of service on the Mosaic Food Challenge Selection Committee and participation in the School Food Infrastructure Fund Adjudication Committee in 2025. Through these roles, she contributed to initiatives supporting food security, student well-being, and school community capacity.

Jennifer also supported Horizon School Division's work in agriculture education, which received recognition through the 2025 Lieutenant Governor's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education. Her involvement reflected an understanding of agriculture's importance to rural Saskatchewan and the value of connecting student learning to local experiences, practical skills, and community identity.

IN JENNIFER'S OWN WORDS

"We strive to give all students the tools they need to be successful, and feel safe and cared for while they attend our schools."

Jennifer Lemky — Trustee Profile

"For the last 14 years as a trustee for Horizon School Division, Jennifer Lemky has been an unwavering champion for every child across the Division. Her vision was never about maintaining the status quo; it was about ensuring that equity, accessibility, and genuine inclusion were embedded into the foundation of everything we do. Jennifer's leadership and relentless advocacy helped drive transformational change throughout our division, earning distinguished honours alongside the Board, including both the Premier's Award and the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education. Her enduring legacy is felt directly in our classrooms, where barriers have been dismantled, and countless students have been given the opportunity and support to reach their fullest potential."

Kevin C. Garinger — Director of Education

"It has been a great honour and privilege for me to do this, and to work with so many amazing staff, students, and of course, my fellow SCC and Board members."

Jennifer Lemky — Trustee Profile

4. Supporting Student Well-being and Opportunity

Jennifer's commitment to student well-being has been a defining aspect of her trusteeship. Drawing on her background as a Licensed Practical Nurse, her 20 years of volunteer service as a medical responder and her experience as an Educational Assistant, she brought a valuable perspective to discussions about student safety, mental health, and the supports students need to succeed.

Jennifer was a strong advocate for strengthening mental health supports within Horizon School Division. She recognized the importance of creating safe, caring, and supportive learning environments where students have access to the resources they need to thrive.

She also advocated for the Board to support First Aid and CPR certification for students, recognizing the value of equipping young people with practical, potentially lifesaving skills that extend beyond the classroom.

> "I have been fortunate as Director of Education to witness Jennifer Lemky's undeniable dedication to children in Saskatchewan for more than 12 years. At every table and in every deliberation, Jenn brought an undeniable, heartfelt commitment to student and staff well-being, consistently asking how our decisions would impact every child and adult, and most especially our most vulnerable learners. She did not just advocate for accessibility and equity, she helped build the culture and shared belief that made significant, lasting change possible for the children of Horizon and beyond. The provincial recognition our Board received, from the Premier's Award to the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Innovation and Excellence, reflects the kind of forward-thinking, compassionate governance Jennifer embodied every day. Horizon is a far better home for all students because of her service."
>
> Kevin C. Garinger — Director of Education

Jennifer demonstrated her personal commitment to student safety and well-being through professional learning, completing Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Level 1 certification and Mental Health First Aid training.

Her commitment to students also extended to provincial service, including two years on the Public Section Citizenship Award Committee and participation in initiatives supporting student nutrition and food security.

5. Professional Development and Provincial Involvement

Jennifer Lemky's record of professional development and provincial service reflects a sustained commitment to learning, leadership, and contribution beyond the local board table. Her engagement has strengthened her governance practice while contributing to provincial conversations that shape public education in Saskatchewan.

Professional Development	Provincial Involvement
Johnson Shoyama Public Sector Governance Certificate	SSBA Trustee Code of Ethics Working Advisory Group
National Congress on Rural Education	SSBA Indigenous Council
Walk Alongside	SSBA Indigenous Constituency
Awâsis	Mosaic Food Challenge Selection Committee
CSBA Conference and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education	Public Section Citizenship Award Committee
Indigenous Language Summit	School Food Infrastructure Fund Adjudication Committee
VTRA Level 1 Certification	Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response (Now Called CTIP)
Mental Health First Aid Training	

Conclusion

Jennifer Lemky's service to Horizon School Division and to public education in Saskatchewan reflects exceptional dedication, ethical leadership, and a deep commitment to students, families, and communities. Her contributions to governance, reconciliation, rural education, student well-being, and provincial leadership demonstrate the impact of a trustee who has served with consistency, care, and purpose.

Letter of Support for Jennifer Lemky
Saskatchewan School Boards Association - Award of Distinction

Dear Members of the SSBA Awards Committee,

On behalf of the Horizon School Division Board of Education, it is a privilege to enthusiastically endorse the nomination of former Trustee Jennifer Lemky for the SSBA Award of Distinction.

Throughout her 14 years of distinguished service, Jennifer provided steady, visionary leadership as Trustee, Board Vice Chair, and Chair of the Governance Committee. She was instrumental in championing governance excellence, notably aligning division practice with provincial standards by supporting the integration of the SSBA's Trustee Code of Conduct directly into Horizon. Her pragmatic, future-focused approach also shaped division policy and operations. As Chair of the Election Committee, she spearheaded the development of *Policy 18: School Board Elections*, and as a member of the Transportation Committee, she helped steer the successful transition to fully contracted transportation services.

Beyond our local Board table, Jennifer's advocacy resonated across Saskatchewan. She actively advanced critical provincial priorities, lending her voice and energy to initiatives focused on Indigenous education, student nutrition, ethical governance, and democratic citizenship. Grounded in a deep appreciation for rural education, she remained a fierce advocate for community engagement, student mental health, and inclusive learning environments, consistently working to remove barriers so every child had an equitable opportunity to succeed.

Jennifer brought integrity, wisdom, and an unwavering passion for public education to every deliberation. Her lasting impact on Horizon School Division and the broader Saskatchewan educational landscape exemplifies the very essence of servant leadership. As Board Chair, I am deeply honoured to support Jennifer Lemky's nomination for this prestigious honour, which she so richly deserves.

Sincerely,

Linda Mattock
Board Chair, Horizon School Division
Chairperson, Public Schools of Saskatchewan