

On behalf of GSSD, I would like to nominate Trustee Lois Smandych for the SSBA Award of Distinction. Please let me know if the information below would be sufficient.

I am writing to wholeheartedly nominate Mrs. Lois Elaine Smandych, esteemed Trustee of Subdivision No. 5, for the prestigious SSBA Award of Distinction. Her considerable service, steadfast dedication to public education, and her embodiment of the highest standards of board member qualities - from effective governance and profound commitment to fervent advocacy, unimpeachable ethics, and continuous professional development - position her as an exemplar within our community.

Mrs. Smandych has had a multifaceted professional journey. From a humble start as a librarian at the Parkland Regional Library, through her significant roles as a counselor and mayor for the Town of Bredenbury, she has consistently served her local community. Her commitment extends beyond the boundaries of her professional life, reflected in her active participation in various organizations such as the SSBA (Provincial Board), Palliative Care (Health), Church Leadership, and Big Brothers, Big Sisters (Yorkton). Her unwavering advocacy for education, first showcased during her election in 2000, has remained steadfast and robust in both the Yorkdale and York School Division, and later the Good Spirit School Division (GSSD). Mrs. Smandych has been a passionate champion for rural education, tirelessly striving to elevate the quality of education for all students.

In her illustrious career, she has graced many committees with her service, including the University of Regina Senate, the Multitype Library Board, the SSBA Bylaws & Resolutions, and the GSSD LINC Committee, among others. Her leadership in the Student Citizenship Awards stands as a testament to her commitment to our students. During her tenure, she skillfully navigated the school division through three substantial amalgamations, steering the board's focus toward policy and governance. Her exceptional leadership has been instrumental in cultivating an environment of inclusivity, ensuring the diverse needs of students are respected and met. Mrs. Smandych's remarkable influence is evident in the creation and ongoing refinement of board policies, keeping them relevant and responsive to the dynamic nature of the educational landscape. Her pivotal role in forming the GSSD, uniting four disparate school divisions into one

unified body, and successfully charting its new educational trajectory is a feat of significant accomplishment. Her firm belief in transparent communication and encouraging collaboration within the board and the broader school community is a testament to her leadership. Her adaptive use of diverse communication platforms, from in-person dialogues to social media, ensures her continuous connection with stakeholders.

Looking forward, Mrs. Smandych envisages innovative ways for the GSSD to tackle societal challenges, such as mental health and poverty. She is committed to leaving behind a legacy of accountability toward students, parents, and school division staff. She advocates that the cornerstone qualities of an effective Board of Education Trustee are integrity, robust work ethic, respect, honesty, commitment, consistency, effective communication, and advocacy. Her sagacious advice to potential trustees is to seriously ponder the significant time commitment and the importance of consistency in their role. Mrs. Smandych's journey is a cornucopia of enriching experiences, including the Saltcoats Autumn Summit, the CPS Millwright Program, Outdoor Education, the LCS Student Leadership Provincial Conference, and the inauguration of new schools. To conclude, Mrs. Lois Elaine Smandych is an exemplary trustee, dedicating her life to serving her community and fostering educational excellence at both the local and provincial levels. It is my firm belief that she is highly deserving of the SSBA Award of Distinction, and I sincerely hope you will consider her a worthy nomination.