

## Premier Thanks School Board Trustees for Efforts in Education

Following his address to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) Annual General Meeting in November, Premier Brad Wall told reporters that his message was “really a thank you” to school board trustees for their efforts.

“We have in the trustees a group of women and men who are in elected office. There’s really no pay that comes with it, there’s not a lot of fame that comes with it. They’re doing this because of their dedication to students across the province and the education system, so first and foremost, we should say thank you to them,” Wall said.

The premier said he also wanted to highlight investments made by his government since taking office in expanding operational budgets for education and increasing capital investments in school infrastructure.

“I also wanted to indicate we know there’s work to be done. We know some school divisions are still under significant growth pressures in terms of enrolment increases. We want to work with them on a new funding formula that will help address some of these challenges of



*Premier Brad Wall addresses the 2015 SSBA Annual General Assembly.*

growth,” Wall told reporters, noting such challenges are preferred in comparison to having to close schools because of a lack of growth.

“The trustees, the school divisions, are facing them on a frontline basis,” he said of the issues. “We know they need a meaningful partner in government to help deal with them.”

Wall also commented on the importance of First Nations education, noting that “even in tight

budgets, we want to find the resources so we can continue” to improve outcomes and close gaps for First Nations students.

While acknowledging budget limitations and tough decisions across government, Wall also pointed to the work of the education funding formula review as important in balancing needs related to student growth in some areas and distance considerations faced by rural school divisions in others.

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## President's Address Highlights Strong Foundation, Bold Future



*SSBA President Connie Bailey delivers her address at Fall General Assembly.*

were established," she said.

"Local autonomy and governance have been foundations of education ever since – and even before – Saskatchewan officially became a province," Bailey continued. "Locally elected school boards have a vital role in serving Saskatchewan's publicly-funded education system."

She went on to discuss the ongoing responsibility of board members to bring the voice of the public to publicly funded education by representing local communities.

"In my time of service, I have consistently seen boards of education in this province have to make tough decisions, navigate change and unpredictability and show courageous leadership by representing local interests even when it is not the most popular thing to do," Bailey said.

"We should be truly proud of how boards, individual trustees and staff operate with personal integrity, how we take pride and responsibility for our work and decisions," she continued, noting that boards are working together more than ever before within a culture of trust and mutual respect.

Bailey said she is proud of the passion, commitment and effort demonstrated by trustees. She noted that lots has changed during the Association's 100 year history and that change will continue.

"We must be bold in looking ahead and planning for the future, for this organization and its members, and for the education system as a whole," she remarked. "We on the Provincial Executive continue to refine and enhance our strategic focus."

SSBA President Connie Bailey discussed the history of trusteeship, the work of the Association and the outlook for the future during her address to the membership on the opening night of the organization's 100th anniversary convention.

Bailey opened her address with a welcome to the Association's 2015 Fall General Assembly and Annual General Meeting.

She noted 2015 has also been proclaimed "Year of the Trustee" and said the Association is thrilled to be recognizing its centennial year during the convention.

The theme of the convention was Strong Foundation, Bold Future, which Bailey said she thought was very fitting. She thanked the Board Development Committee for developing the theme and for all of its work.

Bailey briefly discussed the history of trusteeship in the province of Saskatchewan.

"When our country was formed, it was recognized that the best decisions on education needed to be closest to the community, authority for education was given to each province and in turn local boards

## President's Address (continued)

Bailey discussed the SSBA's mandate of advocacy, services and board development.

On advocacy, the Provincial Executive continues to work hard to refine and enhance its effectiveness in speaking on behalf of members, she said, thanking boards for their support and noting that the SSBA will continue to advocate for the interests of boards.

"Your Executive continues to advocate for the autonomy of boards to make the decisions they know are in the best interests of their students and communities – while finding the best ways to come together for the benefit of all Saskatchewan students," she said.

In terms of services, Bailey said the SSBA continues to hear that services such as legal, insurance and risk management and employee benefits are valued by members. The organization will continue to listen and make improvements to ensure services meet the needs of the members, she added.

"Providing and improving the

services continues to represent an important part of our efforts," the president noted.

Regarding board development, Bailey pointed to the many opportunities for growth and education made available to members each year through the SSBA. She observed that there is great value in gathering to discuss, learn and understand, but also said the Association is always working to improve and be efficient.

"We are strong when we work together and we will continue to provide opportunities to our members to enhance and facilitate efforts in our sector to work with each other and our many partners," Bailey said.

"Going forward – into our 'bold future' – this will be an exciting and challenging year," Bailey said.

She said there remains lots of work involved in order to meet the bold targets set out in both the Education Sector Strategic Plan for the province and the SSBA Vision 2025 Strategic Plan.

Also on the horizon are a provincial election in the spring of 2016, uncertainty around the timing of the next provincial budget and board of education elections in the fall of 2016.

Bailey said the organization's needs include ensuring that, as an Association representing all 28 boards of education throughout the province, its voice is strong, its voice is heard and that education remains a priority.

"The work of the SSBA and its member boards remains deeply rooted in the belief that every child in Saskatchewan, regardless of where they live or their personal circumstances, must have the resources and supports they need to achieve and succeed," the president said in finishing her address.

"Thank you all for your continued efforts in support of education in our province. I look forward to a productive couple of days working with you as we celebrate our strong foundation and focus our efforts on our bold future," she concluded.



*President Bailey and Kevin Waugh lead a breakout group on budget and resolutions.*



*President Bailey speaks to the membership during the SSBA's Annual General Meeting.*



*President Bailey stands with Premier Brad Wall following his address to board members.*



## Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence



*Premier Brad Wall poses with representatives from Prairie South Schools after presenting them the 2015 Award.*

Prairie South Schools received the 2015 Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education for its Pathways to Success Practical and Applied Arts Enhancement Project.

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association coordinates the Premier's Award each year. The award was presented by Premier Brad Wall during the SSBA 100th Anniversary Annual General Assembly on Nov. 9 in Saskatoon.

"Our students are the future of this province and it's important that each of them has the opportunity to reach their full potential in our classrooms, regardless of where they live," said Premier Brad Wall. "I applaud Prairie South's dedication to its students and the division's willingness to explore new ways to deliver courses that help prepare students for meaningful careers.

"It's my honour to present them with the 2015 Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence," Wall added.

Prior to Prairie South's Pathways to Success: Practical and Applied Arts Enhancement Project, not all high school students in the division had equitable access to the same practical and applied arts credit options. Now, through a variety of delivery options, flexible learning programs, centralized equipment purchasing and innovative partnerships, all Prairie South students have the opportunity, regardless of geographical location and the size of their schools, to access a wider variety of options.

"As a board, we have enjoyed seeing our students participate in a wider range of activities than was previously possible" said Dr. Shawn Davidson, Board Chair at Prairie

South Schools. "The willingness of our business, industry and community partners to roll up their sleeves and build programs together with our staff has created opportunities that I wouldn't have dreamed of when I was in school. We are excited to be preparing students for careers and life in the 21st century."

The \$3,000 award is sponsored by Xerox Canada. The award recipient is recommended by a panel that includes representation from the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina, the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Education, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents of Saskatchewan.

"Xerox Canada congratulates the

## Premier's Award (continued)

Prairie South School Division for its innovation and excellence in helping to elevate student achievement," said Brad Stanghetta, Vice-President, Western Market Centre, Xerox Canada. "They join a respected list of past winners and are part of an elite group of inspiring educators who are making a difference helping students reach

their full potential."

Developed in 1999, the Premier's Award recognizes educational innovations and improvements focused on student achievement that have been advanced or directed by boards of education. The prize is to be used to support or extend the innovation or project.

"The Premier's Award shines a

spotlight on great work being done by boards of education throughout Saskatchewan to support student achievement," said SSBA President Connie Bailey. "Although there is only one recipient of the award, each submission is worthy of recognition for advancing the goal we all work to achieve – improved outcomes for students."



*Left: SSBA President Connie Bailey, Premier Brad Wall and Xerox Representative Kent McDonald prepare to present the award. Centre: Premier Brad Wall visits with the award-winning school division after the announcement. Right: Premier Brad Wall, Prairie South Chair Dr. Shawn Davidson and Kent McDonald upon the presentation of the award.*

## Premier's Award Submissions

Thank you to the boards of education that submitted applications for the Award and agreed to share their work. Submissions received for the 2015 Award, including Prairie South's, are available for viewing on the SSBA website.

- **Prairie South Schools** – Pathways to Success Practical and Applied Arts Enhancement Project
- **Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools** – Empowerment and Transformation: Impact of Criteria Development on Stakeholders
- **Good Spirit School Division** – clevr (Data Management System)
- **Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools** – St. Anne School Inquiry-Based Learning Community: Engaging Our Learners

- **Horizon School Division** – Engaging Students Through Culturally Responsive Schools
- **Living Sky School Division** – Growth Without Limits, Learning For All (Land-based Learning Program)
- **Northern Lights School Division** – Northern Saskatchewan Football League
- **Prairie Spirit School Division** – The Da Vinci Project
- **Prairie Valley School Division** – Every Student by Name and by

- Need; the creation of a high-performing, fully aligned school division
- **Regina Catholic Schools** – Innovation and Empowerment through Awareness and Actions: Continuous Action Planning Outcomes for First Nations, Inuit & Métis
- **Saskatoon Public Schools** and Whitecap Dakota First Nation – Strengthening Community Building Opportunity: An Alliance Agreement



## Three New Life Memberships Awarded



*Glen Gantefer is awarded the SSBA's Life Membership.*

**Glen Gantefer**  
**Light of Christ Catholic S.D.**

Glen Gantefer is married to Cheryl and is the proud father of five children and has five grandchildren. He is currently Human Resources Manager at Discovery Co-op and Board Chair of Light of Christ Catholic School Board and plans to run for one more term.

Glen has been a locally elected trustee for a total of 22 years and counting. He was first elected in North Battleford Catholic School Division in 1988 and served for 12 years, seven as Chair. He was re-elected in 2006 to the now Light of Christ Catholic Board, where he has been Chair since 2011.

Glen has also been a dedicated and active member of the Catholic Section for many years, serving from 1992 to 2000 and from 2009 to present day, including as Vice-President, President and then Past-President from 1996 to 2000.

He was also Catholic Constituency Representative on the SSBA Provincial Executive for a total of five years.



*Duane Favel is awarded the SSBA's Life Membership.*

**Duane Favel**  
**Ile A La Crosse S.D.**

Duane Favel received his Bachelor of Education from the University of Saskatchewan and has served as the Director of Research for the Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Council.

He is fluent in both Cree and English and has knowledge of cross-cultural issues.

He is very involved in community activities, with service in roles including Mayor of Ile-a-la-Crosse, a Board Member of the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission and a member of the Aboriginal Advisory Board with Saskatchewan Arts.

Duane is also a long-serving locally elected trustee.

He has also served the SSBA and its Provincial Executive as Chair of AYEP Steering Committee, Chair of the Aboriginal Members' Council and Aboriginal Constituency Representative.

Duane has also been known to share his comedic talents at Association gatherings.



*Janet Foord is awarded the SSBA's Life Membership.*

**Janet Foord**  
**South East Cornerstone S.D.**

Janet Foord is the proud mother of her four adult children and is engaged to fiancé Don Rempel. She is an artist, entrepreneur, full-time business owner and has been the business manager of a family trucking business for 32 years.

Janet has been a locally elected trustee for 28 years, serving first as a local board member for 12 years and then as a division board trustee for her 16th year.

She has also been an active member of the Provincial Executive for the SSBA, serving for seven years as Southern Constituency Representative, Vice-President and President.

Janet has also served on the CSBA for four years on the Board of Directors, as Vice-President and is currently serving her second term as President. She has also served on many other school board and government committees.

She also serves on more than 15 other community boards and committees.

## SSBA Scholarship Winners Celebrated

### 2015 University Scholarship Recipient



Lyndell Nunn is the winner of the 2015 scholarship.

Lyndell graduated from Humboldt Collegiate Institute, located in the Horizon School Division.

Lyndell is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Animal Bioscience program at the University of Saskatchewan.

### 2015 Applied Science and Technology Scholarship Recipient



Rebecca Trarback is the winner of the 2015 scholarship.

Rebecca graduated from Outlook High School, located in the Sun West School Division.

She is enrolled in the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

## SSBA Award of Distinction Recipient Honoured



*Rodney Luhning receives the SSBA's Award of Distinction for 2015.*

of the Public Board Caucus.

Rodney has also been a councillor and Reeve for the R.M. of Lumsden.

Alongside this governance work, he gave his time as a softball, baseball and hockey coach to community sports teams.

He was awarded a Saskatchewan Commemorative Medal for significant contributions to the province.

Rodney completed a Bachelor of Science (advanced) in Biology at the University of Saskatchewan in 1974 and a Master's of Public Policy Certificate at the University of Regina in 2010.

He has worked as a farmer near Lumsden since the mid-1970s. Rodney married Norma Jacobson (RN) on June 23, 1973; they have two children. Holly is a writer and professor at the University of Surrey, England, and Nathan is a Manager of Business Development for Transit Regina. Nathan is married to Alison Luhning, a teacher; Rodney and Norma have two grandchildren, Halcyon and Ginny Luhning.

Rodney Luhning is committed to community and education.

He served for 18 years as a board of education member. He was Chair for 15 of those years, across three different boards of education, two of which he helped to organize – the voluntarily amalgamated Qu'Appelle Valley School Board and the mandated amalgamated Prairie Valley School Board.

In addition to his work as a board

member, he also served on the executive of the SSBA and was awarded a life membership in the organization.

He was appointed as an SSBA representative to the University of Regina Senate where he served two terms and was an SSBA appointment on the Education Relations Board from 2005-2009.

Rodney served as Co-Chair of the Rural Board Caucus and Vice-Chair



## Presenters – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fall General Assembly

**Jane Rooney**



Canada's Financial Literacy Leader, Jane Rooney, poses with SSBA Vice-President Ronna Pethick following a presentation to the SSBA Fall General Assembly about the work of the National Strategy for Financial Literacy – Count Me In, Canada – and related initiatives.

**Education Minister**



Minister Don Morgan addresses the SSBA's Annual General Assembly. The Minister discussed the "great work" happening in school divisions, the Education Sector Strategic Plan and the funding model review. He took questions from trustees on a variety of subjects.

**Student Panel**



Delegates listen to this year's student panel during the Fall General Assembly. Students from Saskatoon Public, Saskatoon Catholic, Horizon and South East Cornerstone school divisions brought forward a variety of topics on classrooms, schools and the system.

**Risk Management**



While constituencies in elections conducted their activities, the SSBA's Director of Insurance Services and Risk Management, Dave Jackson, offered a session to the rest of the delegates at Fall General Assembly, focusing on best practices in risk management.



## Major Sponsors – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fall General Assembly

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## PotashCorp Recognized for Support of Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship



*PotashCorp Senior Aboriginal Relations Specialist Lisa Mooney is presented with a Certificate of Partnership by SSBA Vice-President Ronna Pethick.*

At the SSBA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fall General Assembly, PotashCorp was recognized as an important partner in education in the province.

PotashCorp was one of the founding sponsors of the expansion of the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative's Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program in Saskatchewan and the company continues to support financial literacy for the province's students.

PotashCorp was presented with a certificate, on behalf of the SSBA and its Provincial Executive, to recognize the company's leadership and contributions to financial literacy and Saskatchewan students.

## Two Saskatchewan Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Students Awarded

On behalf of the Provincial Executive, SSBA Central Constituency Representative Larry Pavloff helped celebrate the accomplishments of two Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program students at an event in November.

Students who participate in the AYEP are offered an opportunity to apply to access funding to start their own micro-businesses. This year, two students from Saskatchewan were awarded as recipients of \$500 business start-up grants. This is the first time since the AYEP has been offered in Saskatchewan for grants to be received here.

The two students who received the grants, Heather Keskotagan and Tia Wahobin, both graduated from Sakewew High School in June.

Keskotagan is from the Red Pheasant First Nation. Her business

plan was to create Aboriginal logos and custom printed T-shirts. Today she works at Caleb Manor and operates her small T-shirt and decal business. Her future plans are to enroll in a business course.

Wahobin is a member of the Mosquito First Nation. Her business idea was to be a marketing agent for local First Nations artisans. She is enrolled full-time in university, working part-time and raising a son.

Both are planning on going back to Sakewew High School to share their experiences regarding their business ideas with other students.

Pavloff presented the recipients with their grants during an event at the school on Nov. 26. He thanked the AYEP's sponsors and said the SSBA is proud to support the delivery of the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative's program.



*Larry Pavloff, the SSBA Executive's Central Constituency Representative, presents start-up grants awarded to two Saskatchewan AYEP students.*

The AYEP is part of the SSBA's ongoing focus of supporting improved educational outcomes for First Nations and Métis students by encouraging development of better resources and supports.



## Association Activity – Highlights from October and November



### Provincial Executive Meeting Oct. 22 & 23

The SSBA Provincial Executive met in Regina in October. The agenda included information about the Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge, strategic planning, updates from committees, round table discussions and delegations including Opposition MLAs David Forbes and Trent Wotherspoon (pictured at left).

### Legal Services Module Oct. 15 & 16

SSBA Legal Services developed and presented a two-day module for members of League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents of Saskatchewan.

### Risk Management Presentation Nov. 4

Dave Jackson, the SSBA's Director of Insurance Services and Risk Management, presented to a Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials functional group.



### Communications Presentations Oct. 7 & Nov. 23

The SSBA's Communications Services department, Director Jill Welke (pictured at left) and Consultant Joe Couture, presented in October to Saskatchewan Rivers School Division about 'Marketing Schools: Telling Your Story', as well as in November to Living Sky School Division about 'Tools for Parent and Community Engagement'.

### Human Resources Orientation Nov. 26

New HR staff from Horizon School Division met with the SSBA Strategic HR and Employee Relations and Employee Benefits departments to learn about Association services.

## SECTOR INFORMATION

### SUN WEST SCHOOL DIVISION RECEIVES AWARD FOR BLENDED LEARNING INITIATIVE

The Canadian Education Association and Reader's Digest Canada have recognized three award-winning school districts for leading lasting and system-changing K-12 initiatives.

Cash prizes of \$25,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 were presented to winning school districts to continue to support and grow their innovative programs and initiatives.

Saskatchewan's Sun West School Division was awarded Second Prize of \$10,000 for a district-wide blended learning system.

In order to infuse 21st Century skill development in all aspects of learning

in the division, the Sun West Board of Education established a \$1 million innovation fund for a three-year period as a lever to encourage schools to develop innovative projects to improve learning and teaching.

The focus on 21st Century Competencies, coupled with the Distance Learning Centre's digitized supports and added financial incentives, has created a real appetite for enhanced PD opportunities.

The initiative has introduced new ways of thinking about learning and teaching by capturing the current innovative practices in classrooms

through the use of technology, in a wise manner, and is spreading these new approaches in classrooms throughout the school district.

The Canadian Innovators in Education Awards celebrate and promote educators leading initiatives in the K-12 sector.

The awards recognize and showcase work of teachers, principals and administrators developing innovative teaching and learning programs throughout their school districts focused on improving student engagement and learning.

SOURCE: [www.sunwestsd.ca](http://www.sunwestsd.ca)



*"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

**Aboriginal Constituency:**

Vernon J. Linklater

**Catholic Constituency:**

Jerome Niezgoda

**Central Constituency:**

Larry Pavloff

**Conseil scolaire fransaskois Constituency:**

Élizabeth Perreault

**Northern Constituency:**

Joe Daigneault

**Southern Constituency:**

Janet Kotylak

**Urban Public Constituency:**

Donna Banks

**Executive Director:**

Darren McKee

**Communications Services:**

Jill Welke

**Corporate Services:**

Catherine Vu

**Employee Benefits Plan:**

Jeff McNaughton

**First Nations and Métis Education:**

Jamie Lerat

**Insurance, Risk Management**

**and Legal Services:**

Dave Jackson

**School Board Development Services**

**and Strategic Human Resources:**

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Saskatchewan School Boards Association  
400-2222 13<sup>th</sup> Ave., Regina, Sask., S4P 3M7

Phone: 306-569-0750

Fax: 306-352-9633

Email: [admin@saskschoolboards.ca](mailto:admin@saskschoolboards.ca)

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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 2016:

#### **Members' Council**

Feb. 4-5, Regina (DoubleTree by Hilton)

#### **Spring General Assembly**

Apr. 14-15, Regina (DoubleTree by Hilton)

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

## New Provincial Executive



*SSBA Provincial Executive members take their oaths of office in November. Janet Kotylak and Élizabeth Perreault were returned for new terms this year. Two new members are featured below. Not pictured above: Larry Pavloff. Thanks to outgoing reps Janine Boucher and Kevin Waugh for their service.*

## Executive Update: Joe Daigneault

Joe Daigneault was elected as the **Northern Constituency Representative** for the SSBA. He was born and raised in northern Saskatchewan. He was mayor of Beauval for 21 years and also worked as recreation director in the community for seven years. Joe is retired after 30 years in post-secondary education at Northlands College. He is currently serving his second term with the Northern Lights School Division and serves on a number of other boards and committees, also. Joe is a survivor of the residential school system.



## Executive Update: Donna Banks

Donna Banks was announced as the new **Urban Public Constituency Representative** for the SSBA. Donna was first elected six years ago and is currently in her second term as an elected trustee with Saskatoon Public Schools. Donna is looking forward to the new challenges of the SSBA Executive. She will also be the SHSAA rep. In addition to efforts as a trustee and volunteer in the community, Donna is on the board for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saskatoon. She also likes to spend time watching her son, Ty, play hockey.

