

## Community Voice Essential to Saskatchewan Education System

Community voice and locally elected boards of education contribute to a more democratic and transparent education system, according to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA).

School boards are very concerned about the effects of the changes the Government of Saskatchewan is considering in education, including further forced amalgamations of school divisions and the elimination of democratically and locally elected school boards.

"In education, decisions are best made at the grassroots level and school boards provide a connection and accountability with the community," said Dr. Shawn Davidson, president of the SSBA. "Loss of local voice through the reduction of locally elected boards of education will not be good for students, communities or the education system. Communities and school boards that already have experienced forced amalgamations in our province know that it is very disruptive for schools and students. Huge changes like that take

significant time and resources and they don't save money."

Saskatchewan boards of education strongly believe that the focus should be on continuing the progress being realized with the Education Sector Strategic Plan and ensuring all children in Saskatchewan – regardless of where they live or their personal circumstances – have the resources and supports they need to achieve and succeed.

**Add your voice!**  
Education belongs  
to community.

[saskschoolboards.ca](http://saskschoolboards.ca)

 SASKATCHEWAN  
School Boards  
ASSOCIATION

*Education Belongs to Community is a campaign to share information and thoughts on the importance of local and community voice in education.*

The 28 locally elected school boards have a vital role in serving Saskatchewan's education system. For more than 100 years, the longest lasting and most fundamental responsibility of school boards has been to bring the voice of the public to publicly funded education. Boards of education provide families, communities and students a crucial connection to democratic decision-making in their school systems.

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## Community Voice Essential to Saskatchewan Education System (continued)

→ “Education belongs to community – the SSBA represents 28 unique and diverse boards of education in our province and we need local people to join us in letting the government know that

Saskatchewan school boards matter,” Davidson said. “Just like locally elected representation is important for maintaining local infrastructure, so are locally elected school boards important to local

communities and providing education to our students.”

The SSBA is encouraging communities to add their voices to this discussion; details are available on the [Association website](#).

### School Boards Association Elects New Provincial Executive

The 28 member boards of the SSBA in November chose a new Provincial Executive to lead the organization. The new Executive was selected during the SSBA’s Annual General Meeting and its members are as follows:

- **Dr. Shawn Davidson**, Prairie South Board of Education  
-President
- **Aleana Young**, Regina Public Board of Education  
-Vice-President
- **Duane Favel**, Ile a la Crosse Board of Education  
-Aboriginal Constituency
- **Jerome Niezgoda**, Christ the Teacher Catholic Board of Education  
-Catholic Constituency
- **Jaimie Smith-Windsor**, Saskatchewan Rivers Board of Education  
-Central Constituency
- **Martin Prince**, Conseil scolaire fransaskois  
-CSF Constituency
- **Joe Daigneault**, Northern Lights Board of Education  
-Northern Constituency
- **Janet Kotylak**, Prairie Valley Board of Education  
-Southern Constituency
- **Donna Banks**, Saskatoon Public Board of Education  
-Urban Public Constituency



Back (l-r): Duane Favel, Aboriginal Constituency; Janet Kotylak, Southern Constituency; Martin Prince, Conseil scolaire fransaskois Constituency; Jaimie Smith-Windsor, Central Constituency; Jerome Niezgoda, Catholic Constituency; Donna Banks, Urban Public Constituency; Front (l-r): Joe Daigneault, Northern Constituency; Dr. Shawn Davidson, President; Aleana Young, Vice-President

The SSBA Provincial Executive members are all school board trustees. Representatives for the SSBA’s seven constituencies are chosen by the constituency members. All 28 school boards in the province are eligible to vote for the President and Vice-President.

The Executive advocates with a unified, province-wide voice on

matters identified as important by the membership; promotes the important work of boards of education in improving outcomes for all students; and, builds relationships with key education sector partners and other stakeholders to ensure views of boards of education are represented in all considerations.



## Regina Catholic Schools Receives Premier's Award



*Representatives of Regina Catholic Schools (l-r) Director of Education Domenic Scuglia and Board Members Bob Kowalchuk, Vicky Bonnell, Donna Ziegler, Deb Bresciani and Richard Dittrick pose with the 2016 Premier's Award.*

Regina Catholic Schools has received the 2016 Premier's Board of Education Award for its Innovation & Empowerment: Continuous Action Planning Outcomes for First Nations, Inuit and Métis (FNIM) Education.

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association coordinates the Premier's Award each year. The award was presented on behalf of Premier Brad Wall during the SSBA Annual General Assembly.

"Regina Catholic Schools has been working more than a decade to achieve this within their division and has seen significant success improving their First Nations, Métis and Inuit students' reading levels, enrolment retention, credit attainment and on-time graduation rates," Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Don Morgan said. "The

Education Sector Strategic Plan has prioritized the need to reduce the disparity in graduation rates between Indigenous students and their non-Indigenous peers, and I thank Regina Catholic Schools for their leadership in this area and the great work they do every day."

In its application for the award, Regina Catholic Schools described establishing a standard where innovation, empowerment and action have become the operating norms for addressing approaches to FNIM educational needs over the past 15 years.

Success for FNIM students is not the result of a single program or initiative; it is the outcome of ongoing planning efforts and sustained practices driven by targeted allocation of resources, professional expertise and well-

forged partnerships, according to the division.

"To see the shared dedication from many stakeholders who together want to see success for our First Nations and Métis students is the reward," said Donna Ziegler, chair of the Regina Catholic Schools board of education.

Ziegler said that improved board policies, utilizing best practices, hearing from FNIM community leaders, engaging parents, working with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and empowering the division's Circle of Voices Committee has provided a successful pathway for staff and students.

"It's an integrated approach that shows our commitment as a board, empowers staff to lead and supports students to be successful," she

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## Premier's Award (continued)

→ continued. "At least two-thirds of staff have received Treaty Rights training and we have treaty catalyst teachers in every school. Listening, actualizing and empowering has allowed our staff to be supportive and our students to flourish."

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 commends the Regina Catholic School Division for their continuous innovation, empowerment and excellence in elevating the learning environment for First Nations, Inuit and Métis

students," said Mario Poirier, Vice-President, Xerox Canada. "You are joining a well-respected list of past winners and are part of Saskatchewan's inspired educators who are 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 outgoing 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 our students."



*The Premier's Award was presented by MLA Lisa Lambert (left) alongside Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield (centre) and Kent McDonald of Xerox (right).*

## 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 2016 Award, including Regina Catholic's, are available to view on the [SSBA website](#).

- **Regina Catholic Schools** –

Innovation & Empowerment: Continuous Action Planning Outcomes for First Nations, Inuit & Métis Education

- **Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools** – Focused Math Intervention

- **Holy Trinity Catholic Schools** – A Division Integrated Plan for Learning Improvement

- **Horizon School Division** – Renewed Focus on Literacy

- **Prairie Spirit School Division** – Learning Facilitators in Prairie Spirit School Division

- **South East Cornerstone Public School Division** – Early Learning and Care Program

- **Saskatoon Public Schools** and Sherbrooke Community Centre – Intergenerational Classroom

## Association Awards

### *Award of Distinction*



*Outgoing President Connie Bailey and Award recipient Kevin Waugh.*

Kevin Waugh was the recipient of the Association's 2016 Award of Distinction and was honoured at the Fall General Assembly.

Kevin has dedicated countless hours to the betterment of students as a member of the Saskatoon Board of Education and his involvement with the SSBA.

During his nine years as a trustee, Kevin contributed his leadership skills and passion for the education community in many ways, including serving terms as vice chair and through committee work.

At a provincial level, Kevin was an active participant and supporter of the work done by the SSBA. In 2012, he was elected as the Urban Public Constituency Representative.

Kevin has been a Member of Parliament since October 2015 and he continues to advocate for education.

### *Life Membership*



*Outgoing President Connie Bailey and new Life Member William Caisse.*

William Caisse was honoured as a new Life Member and was recognized at the Fall General Assembly.

William was born in 1950 at Ile-a-la-Crosse. He attended boarding school at Ile-a-la-Crosse for nine years and took his adult schooling in Prince Albert in the 1970s.

He graduated from the Integrated Resource Management program from SIAST with a diploma.

William retired in 2008 after 25 years of service to the forest fire program.

He has been a member of the Ile-a-la-Crosse School Board for 13 years.

William also served for several years on the SSBA's Provincial Executive.

**Thank You to Our Sponsors of the 2016 Fall General Assembly**

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## Presenters at 2016 Fall General Assembly

**David Brown**



David Brown of Brown Governance Inc. shared a presentation with delegates at the convention about "Governance Handbook for School Board Members: What's New in the 2016 Edition?" The contents are available on the SSBA website in the [Events section](#).

**Peter Stoicheff**



Peter Stoicheff, the President of the University of Saskatchewan, took to the podium at the convention to address the trustees and to share his vision for the University. The SSBA has a long relationship with the universities, as valuable partners in education.

**Hon. Don Morgan**



The Honourable Don Morgan, Q.C., Saskatchewan's Deputy Premier and Minister of Education, brought greetings to assembled trustees at the convention. He also answered some questions posed by delegates on various topics in relation to the education sector.

**Jeff McNaughton**



Jeff McNaughton, the SSBA's Director of Employee Benefits and Insurance Plans, led a session during the convention entitled "Benefits for Trustees: Follow-Up on 2015 Resolution." The contents of that presentation are available on the Association website under [Events](#).



*"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

**Aboriginal Constituency:**

Duane Favel

**Catholic Constituency:**

Jerome Niezgoda

**Central Constituency:**

Jaimie Smith-Windsor

**Conseil scolaire fransaskois Constituency:**

Martin Prince

**Northern Constituency:**

Joe Daigneault

**Southern Constituency:**

Janet Kotylak

**Urban Public Constituency:**

Donna Banks

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**Communications Services:**

Jill Welke

**Corporate Services and  
Enterprise Risk Management:**

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 2017:

#### **School for New Trustees**

Jan. 11-13

Saskatoon (Radisson)

#### **Spring Members' Council**

Feb 2-3

Regina (DoubleTree)

*For more information, see the SSBA website under Events.*

## Education Scholarships

*Each year, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association offers two Education Scholarships of \$2,500 each to graduating high school students who remain in Saskatchewan in post-secondary study. One scholarship is awarded to a student entering a degree program in Saskatchewan and one scholarship is awarded to a student entering a technical / trade program in Saskatchewan.*

### **2016 Degree Program Scholarship Recipient**



Sarah Hoag is the winner of the 2016 scholarship.

Sarah graduated from Gravelbourg High School in the Prairie South School Division.

Sarah is currently enrolled in the College of Education at the University of Regina.

### **2016 Technical / Trade Program Scholarship Recipient**



Jory Dyck is the winner of the 2016 scholarship.

Jory graduated from Gordon F. Kells High School in the South East Cornerstone School Division.

Jory is enrolled in the Computer Systems Technology program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic.