

Partners Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Treaty Education



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in Saskatoon in February

The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (SICC), the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on reconciliation through Treaty education.

The MOU recognizes that reconciliation through Treaty education can be the tool to overcome obstacles that affect Treaty relations. It also endorses partnerships to address the advancement of Treaty awareness and education, as vehicles toward the elimination of systemic discrimination, and embody the

Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Through the MOU, the partners have committed to working to address systemic discrimination.

"This MOU is the first step towards reconciliation through education. It provides a way forward for the institutions involved to

Continued on Page 2 →

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MOU Signing	2	Funding Announcement	3
Treaty Symbol	2	Calendar Update	4
New Premier and Minister	3	Mosaic Challenge	4

Memorandum of Understanding (continued)

→ create Treaty awareness in the classroom,” said FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron. “Our children will grow up understanding their inherent and Treaty rights. They will learn that Treaties are a sacred covenant and are international law. Together, we can end discrimination in our education systems.”

The FSIN represents 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan and is committed to honouring the spirit and intent of the Treaties, as well as the promotion, protection and implementation of the Treaty promises that were made more than a century ago.

“Education was the vehicle used to oppress First Nations people,” said Treaty Commissioner Mary Culbertson. “Through education about the spirit, the intent and the Treaty relationship, reconciliation can be one day achieved. Education will be the vehicle to take us there.”

There is “an opportunity to provide education directed toward improving knowledge and understanding of the historical Treaties,” SICC President Wanda Wilson said.

“To fully understand the Treaties, one must understand the spirit and intent of the sacred Treaties. Language and culture must be understood as it is the bedrock, the foundation of the First Nations world view and it is vital that this forms an integral component of any Treaty education program and any First Nations education program regardless of their linguistic group,” Wilson added, noting: “This must come from the local language keepers and the knowledge keepers who wait to be asked.”

“Our ongoing partnerships are very important in addressing shared responsibilities and interests in Saskatchewan’s education systems,” said Dr. Shawn Davidson, president of the SSBA.

“Joining together to sign this MOU is about our commitment to work together for the benefit of all Saskatchewan students,” he added.

The SSBA’s member boards have passed a number of resolutions related to Treaty education.

One resolution adopted in 2017 calls for a mandatory Indigenous studies class at the secondary level, in addition to the Indigenous teachings that are currently embedded in the curriculum.

Another resolution passed in 2017 calls on all schools and school board offices in Saskatchewan to display the Treaty symbol.

“This resolution passed with strong support from our membership,” Davidson said.

The signed MOU has been scanned and posted online and is available at the following link:

<https://saskschoolboards.ca/wp-content/uploads/MOU-Reconciliation-Through-Treaty-Education.pdf>

To assist school divisions with obtaining the Treaty symbol, supplier contact information has been made available online at the following link:

<https://saskschoolboards.ca/wp-content/uploads/Treaty-Symbol-Supplier-Contact-Information.pdf>

For any further questions or information about the Treaty symbol resolution, please contact Jamie Lerat, Strategic Advisor, FNME, at jlerat@saskschoolboards.ca.



FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron shows the Treaty symbol while SSBA President Shawn Davidson looks on during the MOU signing news conference

SSBA Welcomes New Premier, New Minister and Funding Announcement

The SSBA congratulated Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe after he won the governing party's leadership race in late January.

"In our ongoing efforts to support the students in Saskatchewan's education system, we look forward to working with Mr. Moe as the new premier," said Dr. Shawn Davidson, president of the SSBA. "We also want to recognize and thank the outgoing premier, Brad Wall, for his years of service to the people of the province and investments made by his government in education over the years, particularly in constructing and renovating schools."

Another important connection between the SSBA and the premier's office is the annual Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence. Since 1999, premiers of Saskatchewan have given their support for the award, which recognizes educational innovations and improvements focused on student achievement that have been advanced or directed by boards.

The SSBA also thanked outgoing Minister of Education Bronwyn Eyre and congratulated and welcomed incoming Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Gordon Wyant, following the provincial cabinet shuffle in early February.

"We thank Minister Eyre for her service," said Davidson. "We wish her all the best in her new role as Minister of Energy and Resources and Minister responsible for SaskWater and SaskEnergy."

Davidson offered congratulations and welcome to incoming Minister Wyant, who is also Deputy Premier. Davidson noted Wyant's past service



Education sector partners after meeting with Minister Wyant in February

to the education sector in Saskatchewan as a locally elected school board trustee.

"We look forward to working with both Premier Moe and Minister Wyant to advance the important efforts happening in our sector to support our province's students," said Davidson.

"The SSBA and its member boards believe all students should have the resources they need to succeed and achieve, regardless of where they live in the province or their personal circumstances. Education is an investment in our future," he continued.

School boards have been calling for restored and renewed investment in education and want the voices of the families and communities they represent to be heard and considered by the government. Without restored funding and renewed investment, school boards will not have the resources needed to deal with rising student enrolment numbers,

suitable classroom supports and keeping up with inflation.

In February, Premier Moe announced mid-school year funding of \$7.5 million and reiterated his commitment to increase the funding to \$30 million once annualized in the 2018-19 provincial budget.

"Premier Moe and I are committed to ensuring Saskatchewan students have the supports they need to succeed and today's announcement is just the beginning of a renewed and respectful relationship with our teachers and education partners," Minister Wyant said in a news release about the funding.

Davidson said boards "greatly appreciate increased funding to support the students in our province's education system."

He added: "We hope this announcement signals that the 2018-19 budget will provide the restored and renewed investment that is critically needed in school division operating budgets."



"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 francoskoi Constituency:

Martin Prince

Northern Constituency:

Jansen Corrigan

Southern Constituency:

Janet Kotylak

Urban Public Constituency:

Donna Banks

Executive Director:

Darren McKee

Communications Services:

Jill Welke

Corporate Services

Marie Stewart

Employee Benefits and Insurance Plans:

Jeff McNaughton

First Nations and Métis Education:

Jamie Lerat

School Board Development, Strategic Human Resources and Legal Services:

Ted Amendt

Saskatchewan School Boards Association
400-2222 13th Ave., Regina, Sask., S4P 3M7
Phone: 306-569-0750
Fax: 306-352-9633
Email: admin@saskschoolboards.ca

The School Trustee is published approximately five times per year (September to June).

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 2018:

SSBA Spring General Assembly

Saskatoon – Apr. 12-13

Employee Benefits Plan Seminar

Regina – May 9-11

For more information, visit:

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

Mosaic Challenge 2018



The SSBA and The Mosaic Company announced in late January that the 2018 Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge is open.

The Mosaic Challenge encourages grassroots initiatives to promote student nutrition and healthier school environments.

Awards of \$10,000 each will be

awarded to 10 successful applicants.

The SSBA is very grateful for Mosaic's continued generosity in funding this effort to support improved nutrition environments.

To learn more about the Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge and to download the 2018 application, visit the [SSBA website](#).

Alumni Wall of Honour Award

SSBA Executive Director Darren McKee has been recognized as an outstanding alumnus in the category of Indigenous Initiatives for the University of Saskatchewan College of Education 2017 Alumni Wall of Honour. He received the award in January in Saskatoon.

