

## Mosaic Commits to Food Security and Food Education Partners



*Community partners from 12 non-profit organizations gathered in January at the Regina and District Food Bank to hear The Mosaic Company commit to funding food security and food education initiatives over the next three years.*

The Mosaic Company in January committed \$2.5 million in funding for food security and food education initiatives in Saskatchewan over the next three years.

Karen Swager, Mosaic's new Senior Vice-President, Potash, said the multi-year commitment is a testament to the hard work of food agencies to provide hunger relief.

"From providing access to healthy meals each day, to teaching about how food is grown, to providing cooking lessons, to bringing nutrition to the forefront in school and classrooms, these organizations are supporting Saskatchewan families and helping them thrive," Swager said, noting the funding will be provided via

grant agreements with non-profit organizations, including the Saskatchewan School Boards Association for the Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge.

The commitment of three years of funding will allow community groups to better plan by knowing funds will be in place year over year.

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## Mosaic Commits (continued)

→ “Moving forward with a multi-year funding commitment helps our community partners build capacity within their organizations,” said Swager. “Knowing there is cash in place for these programs and not having to worry about reapplying for grants each year takes some of the pressure off and allows our partners to focus on strengthening communities and supporting families as they move towards food security and self-sufficiency.”

The SSBA is Mosaic’s provincial food security and food education partner in Saskatchewan. Mosaic partners with the SSBA on the Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge and each year, Mosaic awards \$10,000 each to 10 Saskatchewan schools who are implementing nutrition and hunger relief programs. There is a Walk to Breakfast event each September to celebrate the winners, held at one of the winning schools.

The SSBA and Mosaic announced in late January that the 2019 Mosaic Challenge is open. The SSBA is very grateful for Mosaic’s continued generosity in funding this effort to support improved nutrition environments. This year, there is a new PDF application to help make participation simpler.

To learn more about the Mosaic Challenge and to download the 2019 application, visit the [SSBA website](#). The application deadline is Mar. 31.



## Education Visioning Project WAG Update



*Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Gordon Wyant addressed the SSBA Board Chairs Council in February.*

In January, an update was provided to all school board members, Directors of Education and the Executive Directors of LEADS, SASBO, the Public Section and the Catholic Section about the SSBA's Education Visioning Project Working Advisory Group (WAG).

This update discussed the work that has been undertaken as part of the WAG processes so far.

The WAG met on Dec. 13 and Jan. 16. The WAG is co-chaired by two SSBA executive members: Jaimie Smith-Windsor (Central Constituency Representative, Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Board) and Janet Kotylak (Southern Constituency Representative, Prairie Valley School Board).

Other members of the WAG include SSBA President Shawn Davidson (Prairie South School Board), and trustees Duane Favel

(Ile a la Crosse School Board), Ray Morrison (Saskatoon Public School Board), Alpha Barry (Conseil des écoles francophones) and Lisa Rathgeber (Christ the Teacher Catholic School Board).

The WAG follows up on the Provincial Education Summit that was held in October last year.

Broad-based engagement is required in order to develop a vision for education in Saskatchewan to guide 2020 and beyond.

A call to action was made to boards of education to engage in this work. The SSBA is working with the Ministry of Education and other education partners to develop tools for boards of education to use to support their local engagement.

The work is expected to roll out to boards of education in February with a May 1 deadline. Updates are being provided at Board Chairs

Council and at Spring Assembly. Detailed information and facilitation documents have been provided to support boards with engagement. WAG members and SSBA staff are available to support.

A facilitation package has been created to support those who will be co-ordinating and/or delivering sector engagements. These documents have been circulated. There is also a video from the Minister of Education to set context, as well as an online survey option that will become available soon.

Boards seeking support for their engagements can contact Jill Welke at the SSBA to co-ordinate supports available from the WAG, the Ministry and SSBA staff.

Members with questions about the work underway can contact a member of the WAG or Ted Amendt at the SSBA for more information.



*"The mission of the SSBA is to provide leadership, coordination and services to member boards of education to support student achievement."*

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## Calendar Update

Upcoming Events in 2019:

### SSBA Spring General Assembly

Saskatoon – Apr. 11-12

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

## Spring Assembly Speakers

The SSBA's 2019 Spring Assembly is an important professional learning event for school board trustees and offers interactive sessions and opportunities to discuss the future of education, as well as time to network and learn from colleagues and partners from across the province. Highlighted here are a couple of the sessions being planned:

### *TransformSK*

Steve McLellan, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, and Mark Cooper, President and CEO of the Saskatchewan Construction Association, were co-chairs, and their organizations were partners, for the TransformSK project that took place during 2018.

They will present some of the key outcomes of the project.

TransformSK is described as the largest non-governmental input process in decades.

The project was focused on getting Saskatchewan people to talk about what transformational change could look like and what that change could be, said McLellan.

The education sector was often spoken of and the final report reflected several key ideas.

It was noted by the project partners how much knowledge and interest in the education sector was voiced in the broader community.

### *Parent Engagement*

Dr. Debbie Pushor is a professor of Curriculum Studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

Pushor's presentation will consider: what is needed in the province of Saskatchewan to move parent engagement from a "random act" to a systematic approach to schooling and education? And what is the role of school boards in this critical work?

With 50 years of research evidence that demonstrates the positive impact that parent engagement has on student achievement and other educational outcomes, it is imperative that parent engagement is central to the vision of education to 2030 and beyond, said Pushor.

Her presentation will ask: how might having a foundational philosophy and pedagogy of parent engagement in all our schools change the picture of public education in Saskatchewan?