The School Trustee

SASKATCHEWAN School Boards ASSOCIATION

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2025 Mosaic Challenge Now Open to Applications

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association and The Mosaic Company are delighted to announce the 2025 Mosaic School Nutrition Challenge is now open to all Saskatchewan schools.

The Mosaic Challenge encourages grassroots initiatives to promote student nutrition and healthier school environments through nutrition-related activities and programming.

Ten successful applicant schools will be selected to receive funding amounts of $15,000 each for a total of $150,000 in funding.

Visit our website to check out the online application form and to see a video about last year's recipient schools!

CSBA National Reconciliation Partnership Award 2025

The Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) National Reconciliation Partnership Award focuses on demonstration of significant and sustained commitment by both a publicly funded school board(s) and local Indigenous community(ies) to the promotion of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples. The deadline for submissions is April 7. Please visit the **CSBA website** for more information.

$1 Million Provided for Sask. School Food Infrastructure

A project led by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) to expand school food infrastructure in Saskatchewan has been approved to receive $1 million in federal government funding from the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) School Food Infrastructure Fund (SFIF).

The project "Expanding school food infrastructure in Saskatchewan: Ensuring equitable reach" will distribute up to $1 million to eligible organizations across the province who are serving school food and nutrition programs for children and youth in need.

"We are thankful to the Government of Canada for its support of this approach, which will see school food infrastructure dollars flow through to local communities in Saskatchewan where they will have the most impact," said Dr. Shawn Davidson, President of the SSBA. "Supporting school food programs has been an important focus for locally elected school boards, and this is one exciting new way in which we are able to help reach our goal to reduce known barriers to learning, attendance and school success."

Key project outcomes will include increasing the capacity of organizations to provide or upgrade food preparation spaces, storage, equipment, and transportation/delivery that improve the food environments within schools and strengthen community food security.

"Stay tuned for more information about how this project will roll out," said Davidson. "This grant helps us to leverage and build upon the many existing partnerships and programs that already help to ensure children and youth are not hungry at school or worrying about their next meal. We have more work to do to solve this problem and Saskatchewan people and communities will play a big part in helping us get there."

Eligible recipients are community-based, not-for-profit organizations engaged with school food programs.

The SSBA will monitor the progress of recipient activities, and support the program through our School Food Roundtable, Kaylee Michnik, SSBA School Food Programs Researcher and Kelly Berlinic. Kaylee was instrumental in exploring and securing this grant, and Kelly has long supported a school food grant through the Mosaic School Nutrition Challenge.

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the School Food Infrastructure Fund (SFIF).

Ce projet est financé par le ministère de l'Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada sous le Fonds pour l'infrastructure alimentaire scolaire (FIAS).

More information will be on the **Saskatchewan School Board Association website** when available.

2025 Spring Assembly Keynote Speaker

Nina Bamberg has an MA in International Educational Development from Teachers College at Columbia University with a concentration in Peace and Human Rights Education. Her professional background includes teaching English as a second and foreign language, non-profit program management, and adult education.

As the Director of Curriculum & Instruction at Pedagogy.Cloud, she develops and leads professional development workshops and courses designed to help educators navigate the changes and challenges posed by AI. Some recent workshops and courses include AI, Human Rights & Education, AI & Education Summer Boot Camp, Designing AI-Proof Assignments, and AI for the ELA Classroom. She also leads a team that develops and disseminates curriculum and policy resources and conducts research on AI policy and governance.

Nina also serves as the Director of Programs at United 4 Social Change, a non-profit that aims to increase access to an interdisciplinary civics education through curriculum resources, professional development, and student leadership workshops. She also serves as a course associate at Columbia's School of Professional Studies and as a Citizenship Educator at The New York Historical.

Nina is also a member of several professional coalitions working to improve access to quality civics and AI literacy education, including Democracy Ready NY and CivxNow, where she's an active member of the AI Work Group.

School for New Trustees (held Jan. 30-31 in Saskatoon)

President Shawn Davidson (left) opened the event which featured expert Eli Mina (centre) as the keynote speaker. The event (right) was attended by 128 people, primarily new school board trustees, from across the province.

The event included a panel (left) of former trustees and a retired director and a panel (centre) of education partners. Jolene Horejda, Ted Amendt and Monica Couture (right) presented on legal services, privacy and code of conduct.

Felice McKay (left) presented on Indigenous education. Jeff McNaughton (centre) presented on cyber risk and governance and SSBA insurance and benefits plans. Jill Welke (right) presented on communications and advocacy.

*Catherine Vu (left) presented on financial governance. Ted Amendt (centre) presented on the SSBA Governance Handbook. Linnea Olson (right) presented on collective bargaining. Presentations are available on **our website**.*

"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:
Lori Kidney

Catholic Constituency:
Jerome Niezgoda

Central Constituency:
Ronna Pethick

Conseil scolaire fransaskois Constituency:
Élizabeth Perreault

Indigenous Constituency:
Kimberly Greyeyes

Northern Constituency:
Joey McCallum

Southern Constituency:
Robert Bachmann

Urban Public Constituency:
Donna Banks

Executive Director:
Darren McKee

Board Development and Indigenous Education:
Ted Amendt, PhD

Communications and Strategic Services:
Jill Welke

Corporate Services:
Catherine Vu

Employee Benefits and Insurance Plans:
Jeff McNaughton

Legal Services:
Jolene Horejda

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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 dates in 2025:

Sask. School Food Program Speaker Series
Ongoing and Available as *Recorded Videos*
Virtual

General Insurance Plan Loss Prevention Seminar
March 27
Saskatoon

2025 Spring Assembly
"Good Governance and Local Voices:
Keeping Students at the Heart of Every Decision"
April 3-4
Saskatoon

2025 *Spring Assembly* Agenda

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

8:30 a.m.	Board Chair Council (South West) *SSBA Executive and Boards Chairs or designate only*
12:30 p.m.	Registration Desk Opens (Conference Foyer)
1:00 p.m.	Public Section (South West) Catholic Section (Centre East)
2:30 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m.	Provincial Education Plan Update (Centre East)
4:15 p.m.	Recess – Supper on own
7:00 p.m.	Registration Desk re-opens (Conference Foyer)
7:30 p.m.	President's Address – Shawn Davidson Executive Director's Address – Darren McKee
7:45 p.m.	Greetings – Honourable Everett Hindley, Minister of Education
8:00 p.m.	Keynote – Crafting Policies That Support Student Thriving in an AI-Driven Future: Nina Bamberg
9:00 p.m.	Adjourn – Social (West/Centre/East)

Smudging:
Smudging is a tradition observed by many Indigenous cultures which involves the use of one or more medicines gathered from the earth. Indigenous Peoples in Saskatchewan generally use sweetgrass, sages, cedars, and other plants for smudging. To smudge is an act of purifying the mind and physical surroundings. Smudging provides an opportunity for people to stop, slow down, and become mindful and centered. This allows people to remember, connect and be grounded in the event, task, or purpose at hand. Everyone is invited to attend the smudging.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

7:30 a.m.	Registration Desk Opens (Conference Foyer)
7:30 a.m.	Smudging (West)
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet (Centre East)
8:45 a.m.	Welcome – President, Shawn Davidson
9:00 a.m.	Overview: Public Section, Catholic Section and the CEF
10:15 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	Networking Groups (see second page for meeting rooms)
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet
12:45 p.m.	Choice of Session: • Strategic Planning for Boards (South) • Advancing School Food Program Policy and Governance in Saskatchewan (West) • *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2018* and its impact on the Education Sector – A Primer for Board Members (Centre East) • Learning From Each Other (Starlight) (see second page for instructions)
1:45 p.m.	Break
2:00 p.m.	A Collaborative Team – The Board and the CEO Relationship - Ben Grebinski, Executive Director, LEADS (Centre East)
3:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks / Spring General Assembly Concludes

*To view a full-page version and for more details, please visit **our website**.*

Read more about the keynote speaker on page 2 of this newsletter.