

Presence at School Promoted on Provincial Students' Day

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA), along with member school boards across the province, are promoting the importance of being present and participating at school.

The theme, which was launched on Provincial Students' Day in September, is "Be present at school – every day counts".

"It is important for everyone in our province to understand that being present at school leads to improved academic outcomes and, ultimately, graduation," said Connie Bailey, President of the SSBA.

"It is crucial that we emphasize to our young people and the broader community that presence plus participation leads to student success," she added.

To honour and reinforce the importance of education, Sept. 1, 2015 – the first day back at school in Saskatchewan – was proclaimed Provincial Students' Day in the province by the Hon. Don Morgan, Minister of Education.

"Thank you to teachers and staff who have worked hard to get their classrooms ready to welcome



Along with the above wordmark, a video was produced to reinforce the theme and its importance. It was viewed by 36,573 people on Facebook.

Check out the video on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/JLpU6UuIOtc>.

students back on their first day of school," Morgan said. "Provincial Students' Day highlights the importance of being ready to learn in the classroom today and throughout the year."

The theme of "Be present at school – every day counts" is Student First and supports targets set out in the Education Sector Strategic Plan to improve student achievement in Saskatchewan.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Fall Members' Council	2	Executive Meetings	8
Fall Members' Council	3	Association Activity	9
CSBA Congress & NTGAE	4	Premier's Award	10
CSBA Congress & NTGAE	5	Premier's Award	11
AYEP Update	6	Calendar Update	12
Breakfast for Learning	7	Association Updates	12

Photos – Fall Members' Council 2015



SSBA President Connie Bailey delivers her opening remarks to Fall Members' Council.



Dr. Guy Tetrault and Randy Fox present on Redefining the Learning Landscape in Canada.



Kevin Garinger gives a presentation about the ESSP Operational Spending Outcome.



Members have discussions at their tables during a session at Fall Members' Council.



Members share insights with each other as part of a Fall Members' Council session.



Patricia Prowse and Dr. Paul Newton discuss the SELU Employee Engagement Report.

Photos – Fall Members' Council 2015



SSBA staffers provide an update about the Human Resources Data Warehouse project.



Ronna Pethick and Ray Morrison discuss the efforts of the Task Force on Teacher Time.



SSBA President Connie Bailey leads some discussion regarding proposed resolutions.



The Life-Threatening Conditions Policy Advisory Committee shares its work.



Some members pose for a picture following the conclusion of Fall Members' Council.



Participants engage in discussions following the conclusion of Fall Members' Council.

Photos – Canadian School Boards Association Annual Congress 2015 and National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education 2015



Keynote Ken Coates addresses the National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education.



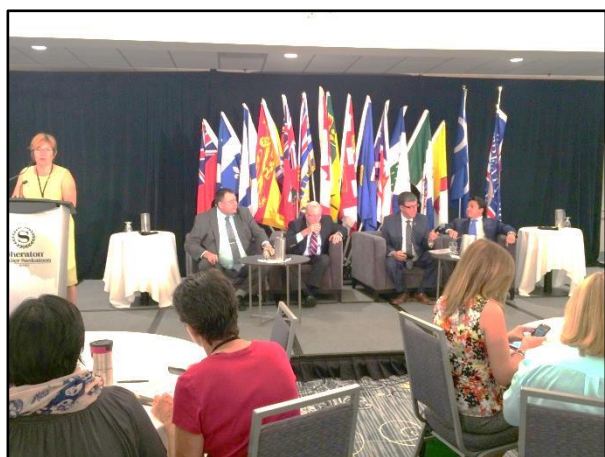
Keynote Hayley Wickenheiser speaks to delegates at the CSBA Annual Congress.



Keynote Child Advocate Bob Pringle presents to delegates at the CSBA Annual Congress.



Members of the Linklater family lead the NTGAE delegates during a pipe ceremony.



CSBA President Janet Foord introduces the political panel set to present to delegates.



The student panel at CSBA Congress 2015 shares their insights and their perspectives.

Photos – Canadian School Boards Association Annual Congress 2015 and National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education 2015



CSBA delegates participate in an off-site tour at St. Mary's Wellness and Education Centre.



CSBA delegates participate in an off-site tour at the Saskatoon Trades and Skills Centre.



Delegates to the NTGAE participate in a walking tour of Wanusekwin Heritage Park.



SSBA President Connie Bailey shares some remarks on the first day of the 2015 Congress.



SSBA President Connie Bailey gives a report for Saskatchewan at the Cross-Country Check-In.



Delegates listen to the reports from provinces across Canada at the Cross-Country Check-In.

The Rt. Hon. Paul Martin Celebrates Success of AYEP in Saskatchewan



The Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative is presented a certificate in recognition of its partnership with the Canadian School Boards Association during a media event at the 2015 CSBA Congress in Saskatoon in July.

The Right Honourable Paul Martin, 21st Prime Minister of Canada and founder of the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative (MAEI), thanked the sponsors of the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program (AYEP) in Saskatchewan during remarks he made at the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) Annual Congress in July.

"AYEP was designed to build upon the great entrepreneurial

heritage of the First Nations, Métis Nation and Inuit. The future of Canada doesn't just depend on the resources that lie in the ground; it depends on the talent of those who walk upon it. I want to thank the Canadian School Boards Association and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) for the leadership they have so clearly demonstrated. It has been crucial to AYEP's success," Martin said.

In 2013, Saskatchewan became the first jurisdiction in Canada to launch the program province-wide, with the support of PotashCorp and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC).

With the third year of provincial operations commencing for the 2015-16 school year, the AYEP in Saskatchewan now receives support from all levels of government and the private sector.

For 2015-16, the AYEP is receiving funding support from the federal government through AANDC, the provincial government through the Ministry of Education, locally elected school boards and Affinity Credit Union. The AYEP has also been generously supported in Saskatchewan by PotashCorp.

The unique program is targeted at First Nations and Métis to increase attendance and engagement at school and improve graduation rates. The AYEP includes First Nations and Métis cultures and traditions by embedding traditional knowledge within in the curriculum. Teaching entrepreneurship to students in a way that incorporates their world views and traditions is behind the AYEP's success.

AYEP Teachers Participate in Training in Saskatoon in September



Teachers learn AYEP curriculum by doing its activities.



AYEP teachers visit sponsor Affinity Credit Union.

Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge Winner Celebrated

The efforts of Saskatoon's Vincent Massey Community School to improve student nutrition and create a healthier environment for every student were celebrated in September as the school was recognized as the winner of this year's Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge.

"We are excited and honoured to be the recipient of the Mosaic Extreme Makeover Challenge for this year," said Ian Wilson, principal of Vincent Massey.

"We know that the additional support will have huge benefits for our students, families and staff in improving educational, health, social and emotional development outcomes at Vincent Massey Community School. We are eager to see the results of the many creative projects that our staff will initiate because of this grant."

The SSBA and The Mosaic Company, in partnership with Breakfast for Learning, host the Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge each year to encourage grassroots initiatives to improve student nutrition.

Vincent Massey was honoured as the grand prize winner for 2015 during a Walk to Breakfast event in Saskatoon in September.

"The Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge addresses hunger in a very real way by creating a healthier learning environment for students through proper nutrition and related programming," said Sarah Fedorchuk, Senior Director of Public Affairs for The Mosaic Company. "Food security is at the heart of what we do and Mosaic is proud to support an initiative that

will nourish children and prepare them for their school day."

Vincent Massey's makeover focuses on honoring traditional pedagogy and enhancing respect and understanding of First Nation and Métis culture.

Activities include the sharing of knowledge by Elders and experts in local food production; visits to working farms, cultural sites, modified hunting and fishing experiences, cooking classes and students taking on the role of teacher to unpack curriculum.

Vincent Massey will also purchase culturally responsive books and will share these stories with the entire student body, many of whom are New Canadians and might not have any prior knowledge about First Nations culture.

Vincent Massey's commitment to enhance nutrition education and to 'balance the medicine wheel' by providing better understanding and appreciation of First Nation culture is exemplary.

"School board members in Saskatchewan firmly believe that all students should have what they need to achieve and succeed, regardless of their personal circumstances," said Connie Bailey, president of the SSBA. "Our Association is proud to support Breakfast for Learning and its work along with The Mosaic Company to ensure students' health and nutrition needs are being met."

As Canada's first, and one of its largest, charities focusing on nourishing children, Breakfast for Learning (BFL) has helped to support and sustain school-based breakfast, lunch and snack programs for more than 20 years. Since 2004, the SSBA has been supporting those efforts.

"Breakfast for Learning is proud to work with the SSBA and The Mosaic Company to ensure that all students have the nourishment they need to succeed at school," said Kelly Berlinic, Director of Community and Organizational Development for BFL.



Image from CTV News coverage of the Sept. 11 Walk to Breakfast event.

Executive Meetings

The minutes of Provincial Executive meetings are posted on the Association's [website](#) after they have been approved.

Sept. 23-24

The members of the SSBA Provincial Executive held their September meeting in Saskatoon from Sept. 23 to Sept. 24, prior to Members' Council.

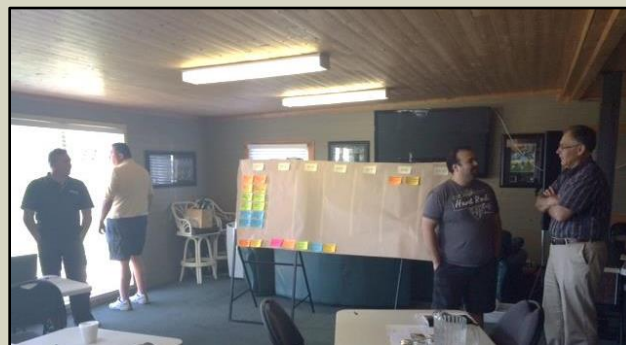
A delegation from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, comprised of President Patrick Maze and Executive Director Gwen Dueck, presented.

Other items on the meeting's agenda included Executive-sponsored resolutions, bylaw changes, strategic planning and various types of reports.



Delegation from the STF pictured with SSBA President Connie Bailey at the September Executive Meeting.

Aug. 24-25



Members of the SSBA Provincial Executive and staff meet in Elbow in August for the annual summer retreat meeting. This year's event activities included strategic planning toward updating the SSBA's Vision 2025 Strategic Plan.

May 28-29



Ken Loehndorf and George Bolduc of the Catholic Section and Larry Huber and Bert de Gooijer of the Public Section appear as delegations during the May meeting of the SSBA Provincial Executive at the SSBA boardroom in Regina.

Association Activity



Provincial Auditor Judy Ferguson discusses recommendations related to school boards in her office's latest report at a special meeting with the SSBA Provincial Executive on July 29.



SSBA President Connie Bailey attends the celebration of Charlebois Community School's 125th Anniversary, held in Cumberland House on June 12.



The SSBA's Leona Baun presents at the Employee Benefits Plan Seminar, which was held in partnership with the Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials, May 6 to 8.



SSBA staffers participate in strategic planning tools training facilitated on May 27 by representatives from the Ministry of Education. The intention of the session was to support SSBA staff in learning about tools used in development of the Education Sector Strategic Plan.



Members of the SSBA Provincial Executive and SSBA staff meet with the Prairie Valley Board of Education on June 10. As a part of annual efforts to visit boards, SSBA Executive and staff members this year also met with the Holy Family Board of Education, on May 13.

SECTOR INFORMATION



The Saskatchewan Alliance for Youth and Community Well-being (SAYCW) thanks all schools and divisions that participated in the Youth Health Survey this past spring. There will be another opportunity to participate in the Survey this fall, administered by the Sask. Educational Leadership Unit (SELU). Some dedicated school-grant funds are also available. Visit saycw.com for more info.

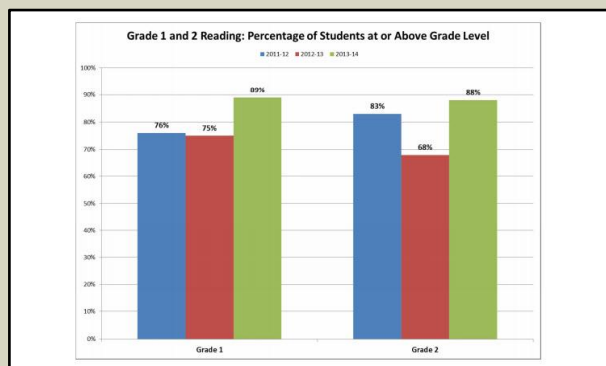


The Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board (SPTRB) is a new organization that is responsible for regulating teachers in the public interest. Later this fall, the SPTRB will assume responsibility for teacher certification and registration as well as for receiving, investigating and hearing complaints concerning teacher conduct and competence. Visit sptrb.ca for more info.

Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence

We continue to highlight the awards submissions received for 2014. Visit [our website](#) to view full submissions.

2014 Submission: Investing in Teachers **Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools**



System data collected shows the success of the initiative.

The Investing in Teachers initiative provides targeted professional learning for teachers based on promising-practice research and division-level data.

The Investing in Teachers initiative is innovative in nature because of the multiple small-group, grade-alike professional learning sessions offered and tailored to meet the needs of students and teachers at those levels. Further differentiated learning follows the sessions when teachers are supported in the classroom, one-on-one by the instruction and assessment team.

The initiative has been well received by teachers in the division. System data collected throughout the first year indicates the success of the initiative, according to the board of education's award submission.

2014 Submission: Carbon Capture and Storage **Regina Catholic Schools**



Grade 7 students participate in a SaskPower CCS Workshop.

The goal of the project was to create a leading edge, Saskatchewan-based learning resource linking carbon capture and storage technology to curriculum through a development process of shared responsibility, expertise and support between interest sectors, leading to enhanced educational outcomes, experiences and opportunities for students, the board's submission said.

The project resulted in the creation of an outstanding curricular support resource and several outgrowth activities that provide new linkages and opportunities for students, educators, government officials and industry leaders. Partnerships created demonstrate a synergy that sets a standard for working relationships between public education and other constituents.

2014 Submission: Aboriginal Education, Treaty Training **Regina Public Schools**



Regina Public Schools staff engaged with Treaty Training.

One full day of division-wide Treaty training was allocated for all Regina Public Schools staff. The mandated professional development session was delivered live via the e-cast studio at the University of Regina. Staff from two schools participated in the live e-cast. The remainder of the 54 schools participated in an "all staff in-school session."

Staff embraced the professional development session, the content and the format, the board said in its award submission. The high level of engagement for teachers was evident in the participants' responses in the evaluation, with 88 per cent of participants responding that they feel better prepared to integrate First Nations and Métis content.

Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence

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2014 Submission:
Campus Regina Public
Regina Public Schools



Image from Regina Public's award submission.

At Campus Regina Public, students follow career pathways preparing them for post-secondary studies and for direct entry into the workforce.

Campus Regina Public is based on the premise that students in Regina Public Schools have access to programs beyond their home schools. Campus Regina Public engages students in an interest-based and like-minded environment focusing on one of the 20 career pathways. All courses are designed and created based on student and industry feedback, which means that all courses are constantly evolving.

Campus Regina Public symbolizes a new way of thinking and new ways of achieving student success, the board said in its award submission.

2014 Submission:
Dreamcatcher Coaching 212°
Saskatchewan Rivers Public Schools



A student whose reading level improved reads the paper.

The Dreamcatcher Coaching 212° initiative began in Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division with the thought that small things can make a tremendous difference in helping students achieve results and the goal of providing excellence for every learner by putting strategic supports in place at the school level and by ensuring that data has faces in every school.

The board said in its submission that the success of the Dreamcatcher Coaching 212° initiative is reflected in the increased ability of classroom teachers to set learning goals for every child, to implement a diverse range of instructional and assessment strategies and ultimately to provide students with the confidence and competence to achieve their personal learning goals.

2014 Submission:
Learners Grow Here: Math 9+
Saskatoon Public Schools

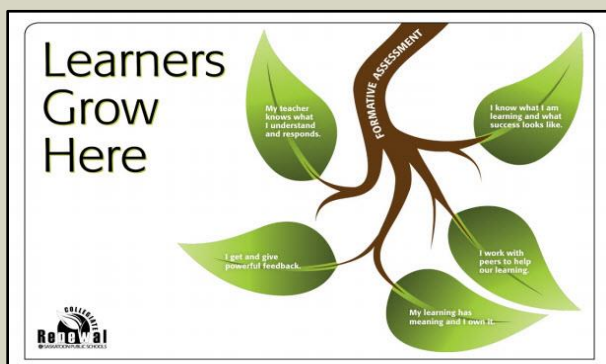


Image from Saskatoon Public's award submission.

In its submission, Saskatoon Public Schools said it was proud to nominate Math 9+ for the Premier's Award because Math 9+ has shown early success in helping students who struggle with math. Math 9+ is designed to help students fill gaps in mathematical skills and understanding so that they can experience success in high school mathematics.

Math 9+ has supported students to build competence and potency through mastery of foundational math skills. Math 9+ has inspired Grade 9 students and families and given them hope; they can build on positive Grade 9 Math experiences and make more informed decisions as they plan for future secondary math classes and post-secondary or career opportunities.



"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 Perrault

Northern Constituency:

Janine Boucher

Southern Constituency:

Janet Kotylak

Urban Public Constituency:

Kevin Waugh

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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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 2015:

100th Anniversary Fall General Assembly

"Strong Foundation – Bold Future"

Nov. 8-10, Radisson Hotel Saskatoon

For more information, see the SSBA website under Events.

Executive Update: Vernon J. Linklater

The SSBA Provincial Executive this summer announced that Vernon J. Linklater accepted the position as its new **Aboriginal Constituency Representative**. Vernon is the longest-serving First Nations trustee in an urban setting, having been elected for a total of 10 years to the board of education for Saskatoon Public Schools.

Vernon is a former boxing champion and medalist. He is eager to listen to the community to help students succeed. He is also an Elder's Helper and shares his teachings and his humour.



Staff Update: Catherine Vu

Catherine Vu joined the SSBA in July as the new **Director of Corporate Services**. She is a Chartered Professional Accountant and has been a designated accountant for more than 10 years.

Catherine brings a wealth of experience from past roles as Director of Finance at 3sHealth, Director of Corporate Services at the Ministry of Education and time as an auditor and in other senior accounting positions in private industry.

She is active with the Canadian Ski Patrol and can be found on winter weekends on the ski hill.



Staff Update: Rong Hu

Rong Hu was hired as an **Accounting Clerk** in July. She earned her Business Administration degree from the U of R in 2008 and went on to work at CIBC. She also worked in accounting and tax preparation roles prior to joining the SSBA.

She is currently working on a Business Accountancy Diploma through SaskPolytech and intends to pursue the CPA designation.

Rong's hobbies include reading, music and playing table tennis and her goals include helping her mother move from China to Canada.

