

Shaping the Future of Education: A Shared Vision



SSBA Executive Director Darren McKee, Vice-President Aleana Young and President Shawn Davidson were among the participants at the Provincial Education Summit held in Saskatoon in October.

A Provincial Education Summit took place in Saskatoon in October with the theme “Shaping the Future of Education: A Shared Vision.”

The summit objectives included: developing an understanding of what has influenced the system to-date; dialoguing and networking with a wide range of partners that influence or impact the success of

Saskatchewan’s children and youth; and, providing input into the key considerations for inclusion in the co-construction of a framework for a future education plan.

Many organizations participated. The co-planning partners included the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations; the League of Educational Administrators,

Directors and Superintendents of Saskatchewan; Métis Nation – Saskatchewan / Gabriel Dumont Institute; the Ministry of Education; the Office of the Treaty Commissioner; the Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials; the Saskatchewan School Boards Association; and, the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation.

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Provincial Student's Day Emphasizes Message of Student Safety

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) reminded everyone to focus on student safety as students across the province returned to classrooms for the new school year.

Sept. 4 was officially proclaimed as "Provincial Students' Day" in Saskatchewan to help ensure safety was the primary consideration for students, families and communities, and especially for motorists who would be driving in and around school zones.

"Recognizing students through

this day contributes to helping alert all drivers that children and youth are back in school and extra care for their safety should be considered," said Dr. Shawn Davidson, president of the SSBA.

The Government of Saskatchewan officially proclaims Provincial Students' Day each year at the SSBA's request, with the intent of reinforcing the message of care and concern for students going back to school.

"As a parent who has experienced the back to school rush,

I know it is a busy and exciting time for children, parents and teachers," Deputy Premier and Education Minister Gordon Wyant said.

"It is important to recognize the efforts of teachers and staff members who work tirelessly to make the transition back to school as safe and easy as possible for our students," he added.

Provincial Students' Day was first proclaimed in 2010, in response to a resolution passed by the province's trustees at the SSBA 2009 Annual General Meeting.

Orange Shirt Day Encourages Reflection on Residential Schools



SSBA and SASBO staff members participated in Orange Shirt Day in September.

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) encouraged everyone to wear orange and to think about residential schools as "Orange Shirt Day" was officially proclaimed in the province.

"This is an for opportunity reflection to occur regarding residential schools," said Dr. Shawn Davidson, SSBA president. "We need to keep building understanding about this shared history."

Orange Shirt Day is recognized on

Sept. 30 each year and is part of a larger movement in the country to provide opportunity to unite in a spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

"Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity to honour the residential school students and acknowledge their experiences," Deputy Premier and Education Minister Gordon Wyant said.

"We want to ensure that all Saskatchewan people take the time

to understand the impact of residential schools," he added.

The Orange Shirt Day movement is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in B.C. in 2013. It grew out of the account of a young girl having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school.

Orange Shirt Day was first proclaimed in Saskatchewan in 2016, in response to a resolution passed by the province's trustees.

Walk to Breakfast Celebrates 2018 Mosaic Challenge Winners



The 2018 Walk to Breakfast event took place at Bert Fox Community High School in Fort Qu'Appelle in September.

Efforts of Saskatchewan schools to improve student nutrition and create healthier environments were celebrated in September with the Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge's Walk to Breakfast.

Since 2006, The Mosaic Company and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association have hosted the Challenge to encourage grassroots initiatives. Ten schools each received \$10,000 earlier this year as winners of the 2018 Challenge. One winner was Prairie Valley School Division's Bert Fox High School in Fort Qu'Appelle, where the Walk to Breakfast event was held.

"We've worked with the SSBA on the Mosaic Challenge for over 10

years – one of our longest community partnerships to date – and we still get excited each year to participate in the Walk to Breakfast, where we can have a one-on-one visit with a winning school," said Sarah Fedorchuk, Vice President of Government Relations & Public Affairs at Mosaic. "We're glad to be at Bert Fox High School to hear about their efforts to make nutrition a daily part of student lives with the funding Mosaic provides.

"Congratulations to all of the Mosaic Challenge winners and to all schools across the province who are focusing efforts on the health and nutrition of our children," she said.

Bert Fox High School's project

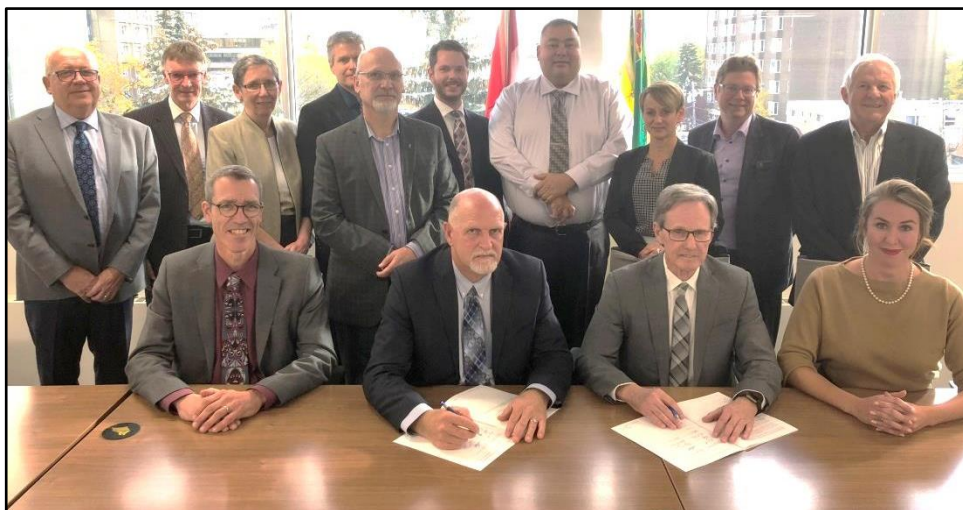
highlights include implementing a universal snack program, training and skills development and purchasing kitchen equipment.

"Healthy nutrition for all students plays a significant role in their ability to learn, and Bert Fox's winning project is a great example of how a school can focus on student success through healthy eating," Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Gordon Wyant said.

"Congratulations to Bert Fox and all the other recipients for their dedication to making student nutrition an important part of every student's life," he added.

A record 70 schools submitted projects in 2018's Challenge.

Teachers' Collective Agreement Signed



Representatives of the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee and the Teachers' Bargaining Committee signed the new collective agreement.

Teachers and the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee signed a new collective agreement.

On Sept. 7, 2018, an arbitration board handed down a decision, outlining a new collective agreement for teachers in the province's schools.

The agreement, signed Oct. 3 in Regina, is based on language outlined in that arbitration ruling. The agreement covers the period from Sept. 1, 2017, to Aug. 31, 2019.

The parties would like to thank the members of the arbitration board for their work.

Employee Benefits Plan Seminar



The 2018 Benefits and Pension Administration Seminar took place in Regina in October.



Employee Benefits Plan Profile

The SSBA Employee Benefits Plan is available to all permanent non-teaching employees and to trustees of member boards.

The plan's group insurance offers a full range of survivor, disability and health benefits to member school boards and their employees across Saskatchewan. The products have been uniquely customized over the years to fit the needs of school boards and the education sector.

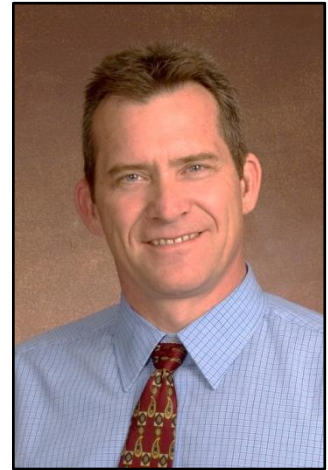
The SSBA is the third-party administrator and the policyholder responsible for the management of

the plan on behalf of participating member school boards.

In addition to offering the benefits plan, the SSBA Employee Benefits Services Department:

- administers the plan / policies;
- communicates and coordinates information/ updates on the plan;
- supports school divisions with their benefits plan administration;
- and, offers presentations and seminars on the Employee Benefits Plan and related topics.

For more information, please visit the [SSBA's website](#).



Jeff McNaughton, Director



Leona Baun, Benefits Supervisor



Chris Petford, Benefits Administrator



Leanne Petford, Benefits Administrator



Patty Webb, Benefits Administrator



Ketan Chavda, Benefits Clerk



Bini Johnson, Benefits Clerk

Association Activity



SSBA President Shawn Davidson and Vice-President Aleana Young signed a MOU with Métis Nation in July.

The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN-S) and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on “strengthening our commitment for success of Saskatchewan Métis Students” at the Batoche Festival Grounds in July.

The MOU recognizes that the advancement of Métis culture, traditions and ways of knowing can be the vehicle to overcome obstacles that affect Métis student success and their educational aspirations. A positive Métis identity is the foundation of student success and integrating Métis cultural content and perspectives into the

classroom assists Métis students to form positive identities and educates non-Métis students about Métis history and contributions.

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Minister responsible for Education Dr. Earl Cook stated: “Part of our role as the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan is to build positive relationships with all residents of Saskatchewan and share our stories and experiences in our own voice.

“Signing this MOU means to do just that,” he continued.

Effective relationships between Métis and school boards are vital in advancing the reconciliation of Métis rights, interests and aspirations and embody the Truth

and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

Through the MOU, in the spirit of collaboration and renewed partnership, the MN-S and SSBA commit to working together, where the Métis participate fully in all aspects of the education system as students, teachers, elders, board members and decision makers.

“Partnerships like this are crucial in addressing shared responsibilities and interests in our education systems,” said Dr. Shawn Davidson, president of the SSBA.

“Coming together to sign this MOU is about our commitment to work together in support of all Saskatchewan students,” he added.

Canadian School Boards Association Annual Congress July 2018 – Highlighted Resource



Dr. Stan Kutcher is an internationally-renowned expert in adolescent mental health and a national and international leader in mental health research, advocacy, training, policy and services innovation working at the IWK Health Center and Dalhousie University. Currently, his focus is on knowledge translation pertaining to improving mental health literacy and mental health care in schools and primary care, as well as the development, application and evaluation of electronic youth mental health engagement, self-care and personal health records.

Dr. Kutcher has been to Saskatchewan recently and there are a number of school divisions **interested in his work and training.**

Association Activity



Visitors from the New Zealand School Trustees Association toured Saskatchewan in June, including visiting the SSBA offices in Regina.



SSBA President Shawn Davidson and Vice-President Aleana Young and staff made board visits to Prairie Spirit and Saskatoon Public divisions in June.



Members of the SSBA Legal Services team participated in a webinar with the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner's office in September.



"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 francosaskois 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:

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:**

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

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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 2018:

Local Government Week

Provincial – Nov. 12-16

SSBA Fall General Assembly

Regina – Nov. 15-17

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

Local Government Week

The Hon. Warren Kaeding, Minister of Government Relations for the Government of Saskatchewan, has officially designated the week of Nov. 12 to 16 as "Local Government Week" in the province.

The proclamation comes as the result of a joint request from the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA), the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), and the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA).

Recognizing Local Government Week provides the partner organizations and all residents of the province with a formal opportunity to highlight the work of local governments.

This recognition can also include an educational component for students. Efforts around the educational component will be further developed in future years, as it is anticipated this week will continue to be proclaimed on an annual basis going forward.

The call to recognize Local Government Week with an official

proclamation from the province emerged through discussions between the partner organizations as an excellent opportunity to increase awareness and engagement in the province's systems of local democracy.

The SSBA and the other partner organizations are encouraging member school boards and others to mark their calendars, share information about this week as they deem fit and consider ways in which they can highlight Local Government Week at the local level in schools and communities.

Further information and details regarding the opportunities and events happening during Local Government Week, including a media conference to announce and launch the week, will be forthcoming. The partners are working on some information and resources for members and to be shared with the public.

Local Government Week also coincides with the SSBA's Fall General Assembly, which will provide opportunity to highlight and celebrate the proclamation.