

Local Government Week Educational Resource To Be Launched

Local Government Week is once again being proclaimed in the province of Saskatchewan this year, from Nov. 8-14.

Local Government Week was first proclaimed in 2018 at the request of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S), the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) and the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA).

Recognizing this week provides a formal opportunity to highlight the work and role of local governments.

School boards are elected to govern K-12 education in their school divisions and are essential members of local government. They ensure that the wishes of the community are reflected in the schools and make decisions that shape the education of Saskatchewan children.

The call to recognize this week emerged through discussions between the organizations and local governments as an opportunity to increase awareness and



engagement in systems of democracy and governance.

The partners are very excited this year to be launching an educational component for students.

For the past couple of years, the partner organizations have been working with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) Learning Centre, and a committee of representative teachers, to develop local government resources that support curriculum outcomes related to democracy, community and citizenship.

The resource package is titled Who Governs Us – Who Governs the Land? The resources are targeted for Grades 3 and 4 and will be made available to all teachers in Saskatchewan to support learning about the following: the roles and responsibilities of local governments; citizenship and

engagement in local democracy; and local governments as pertains to Treaty Rights, First Nations jurisdiction and recognizing the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.

It is planned to translate the resources into French.

One additional component that the partners are also working on to complement the educational resource is a Speakers Bureau.

The Bureau would be made up of contacts within each organization, designed to connect teachers using the resources with local government representatives who would be willing and able to present and speak with the students and share first-hand accounts of their roles and responsibilities as locally elected representatives and leaders.

Watch for more information about Local Government Week and the educational resources.

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Provincial Students' Day Recognized in Saskatchewan

As students began returning to school, Sept. 1 was officially proclaimed "Provincial Students' Day" in Saskatchewan, as requested annually by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA).

"As we welcome students, staff and families back to school, health and safety continue to be paramount for school divisions," said Dr. Shawn Davidson, president of the SSBA.

"We will be focusing on making this a great year of safe learning, connections and fun. We also think it's important as-ever to issue a reminder about school-zone safety and we are encouraging all Saskatchewan communities to pay close attention as our roads, walkways and school zones get

busier with returning students and staff," Davidson continued.

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.

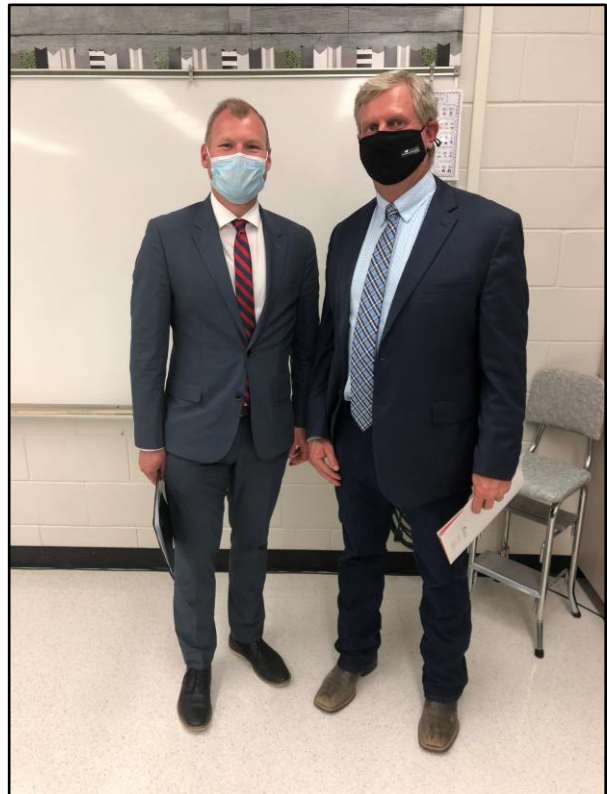
It is usually proclaimed on the first Tuesday of September. This year, it was moved to coincide with the change in school-year start.

The day has always been focused on helping ensure safety is the primary consideration for students, families and communities, and especially for motorists who will be driving in and around school zones.

The Government of Saskatchewan proclaims the day each year at the SSBA's request, with the intent of reinforcing the

message of care and concern for students going to and from school.

"I would like to commend the Saskatchewan School Boards Association for taking the initiative each year to proclaim Provincial Students' Day in Saskatchewan and we are pleased to welcome all students back to a more normal school year. It is especially meaningful this year as we all work to ensure schools are safe and welcoming," Education Minister Dustin Duncan said. "The Government of Saskatchewan proclaims Provincial Students' Day to help remind motorists the importance on this day, and every day, of using caution and slowing down in and around school zones to keep all students safe."



SSBA President Shawn Davidson attended a back-to-school media event with Education Minister Dustin Duncan.

Orange Shirt Day Recognized in Saskatchewan

Joining with communities across the country, schools throughout the province again officially recognized “Orange Shirt Day” on Sept. 30, as requested annually by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA).

Sept. 30 was also proclaimed federally as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. In recognition of this day of remembrance for the victims of the residential school system, the SSBA encouraged all schools in the province to observe a moment of silence.

“On behalf of our 27 member boards of education, the SSBA is encouraging school communities, and all residents of the province, to participate in Orange Shirt Day by wearing orange, reflecting on

residential schools and observing a moment of silence,” said Dr. Shawn Davidson, SSBA president.

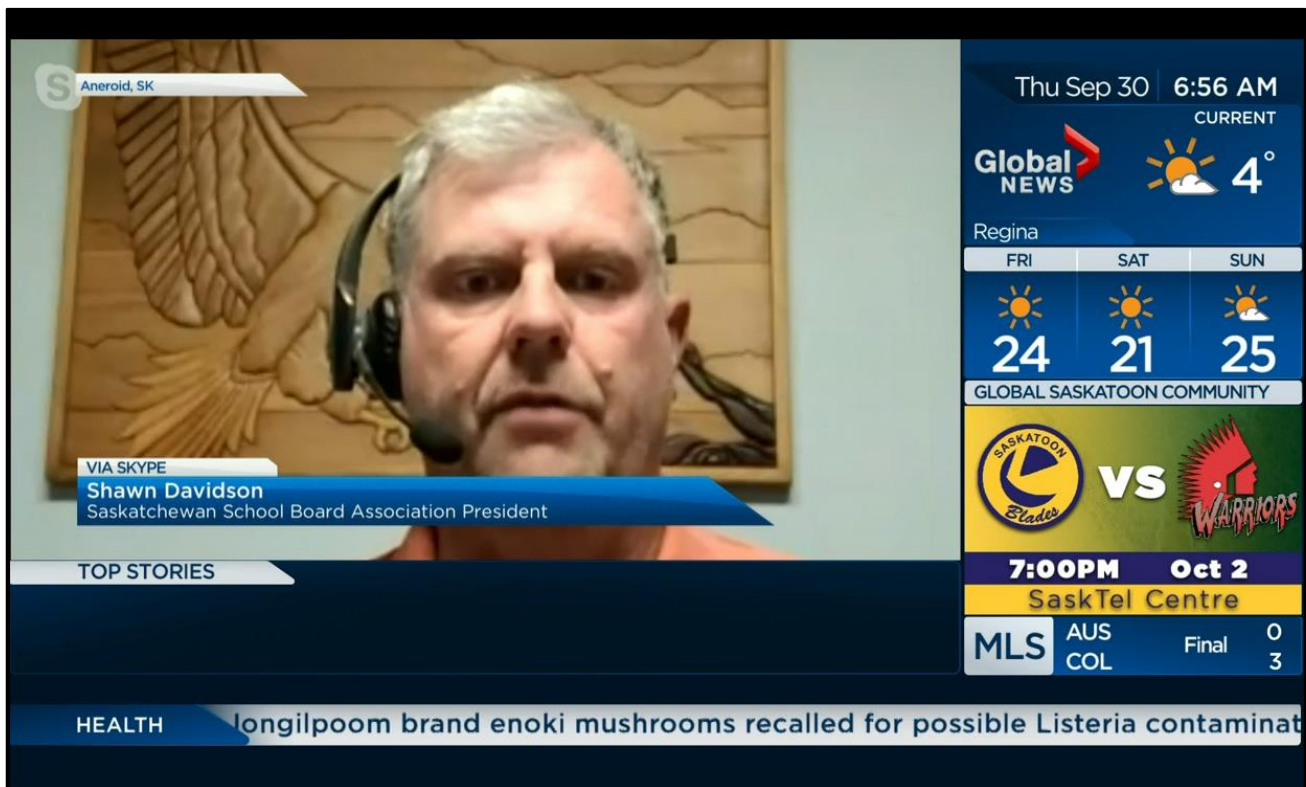
“Especially considering the heartbreaking confirmations of unmarked graves we witnessed this year, this day represents an opportunity for each of us to think about residential schools, expand our understanding of this history and commit to growing together through education toward reconciliation,” he continued.

Orange Shirt Day is part of a larger movement in the country to provide opportunity to unite in a spirit of reconciliation and hope for future generations. The movement is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in B.C. in 2013, emerging

out of the account of a young girl having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school.

The day was first proclaimed in Saskatchewan in 2016, in response to a resolution passed at the SSBA Spring General Assembly. The province proclaims the day each year at the SSBA’s request.

“Orange Shirt Day provides an important opportunity for school communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation,” Education Minister Dustin Duncan said. “It’s important to acknowledge the lasting impact of residential schools on our communities and commit to learning more about the history of residential schools in order to build stronger communities that are inclusive and safe for all.”



SSBA President Shawn Davidson was interviewed about Orange Shirt Day.



"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:

Jaimie Smith-Windsor

Catholic Constituency:

Jerome Niezgodá

Central Constituency:

Christine Gradin

Conseil scolaire fransaskois Constituency:

Élizabeth Perreault

Indigenous Constituency:

Kimberly Greyyes

Northern Constituency:

Nathan Favel

Southern Constituency:

Janet Kotylak

Urban Public Constituency:

Donna Banks

Executive Director:

Darren McKee

Communications and

Policy Support:

Jill Welke

Corporate Services:

Catherine Vu

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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 Events in 2021:

Local Government Week

Nov. 8-14

SSBA Fall General Assembly

Virtual – Nov. 14-16

Theme: "Connections"

2021 FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CONNECTIONS

VIRTUAL



SUNDAY, NOV. 14

7:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions (*all members enter Zoom*)

- Student Entertainment – Ile a la Crosse Grade 7 Jiggers (video)
- President's Address
- Executive Director's Address

7:30 p.m. General Insurance Plan Update – Christine Gradin

7:45 p.m. Employee Benefits Plan Update – Jerome Niezgodá

8:00 p.m. Keynote: Creating Connections – Dr. Debbie Pushor, University of Saskatchewan

9:00 p.m. Concludes for the Evening (*all members exit Zoom*)

MONDAY, NOV. 15

8:30 a.m. Mosaic Showcase / Greetings from CSBA, LEADS, STF and SASBO (*all members enter Zoom*)

9:00 a.m. The Transformative Power of Relationships – A Mom and Teacher Share Their PTHV Stories

10:00 a.m. Annual General Meeting of the SSBA

- 2022 Strategic Plan and Budget
- Procedures: Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions

10:30 a.m. Break (*members are to remain logged into Zoom to facilitate sorting into breakout rooms*)

11:00 a.m. Networking Groups: Proposed Bylaw Amendments, Resolutions and Budget – Closed Session (groups on page. 2)

12:00 p.m. Break (*all members exit Zoom*)

1:00 p.m. Annual General Meeting (continued) (*all members enter Zoom*)

- Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions

3:30 p.m. Meetings Adjourn for the Day (*all members exit Zoom*)

MONDAY, NOV. 15 (continued)

3:30 p.m. Catholic Section Meeting (*Section members enter Section-specific Zoom*)

3:30 p.m. Public Section Meeting (*Section members enter Section specific Zoom*)

TUESDAY, NOV. 16

8:15 a.m. Minister of Education Greetings & Awards (*all members enter Zoom*)

- Scholarship Award
- Life Member Award
- Premier's Award

9:00 a.m. Creating Home / School Connections – Sun West School Division

10:00 a.m. SSBA Service Review – Christopher Cameron

10:30 a.m. Southern Constituency Election (*other members exit Zoom and voters stay connected*)

11:15 a.m. Northern Constituency Election (*other members exit Zoom and voters stay connected*)

12:00 p.m. Annual General Meeting (continued) (*all members enter Zoom*)

- Introduction of New Executive
- Oath of Office

12:15 p.m. Fall General Assembly Concludes (*all members exit Zoom*)

1:00 p.m. Board Chairs Council – SSBA Executive and Boards Chairs or designate only (*members enter Zoom*)

Keep up-to-date on events at the following website link:

<https://saskschoolboards.ca/events>