The School Trustee

SASKATCHEWAN School Boards ASSOCIATION

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School Boards Strengthen Connections in Ottawa

Members of elected school boards from throughout the country met with federal government leaders in Ottawa in October to strengthen connections related to public education in Canada.

Over the course of two days, the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) Board of Directors discussed important issues such as the National School Food Program, Indigenous education and languages, and the importance of locally elected voices in education.

The CSBA has held advocacy meetings in Ottawa since 2019, establishing strong connections with leaders whose mandate overlaps with education, regardless of their political affiliations.

Members of the CSBA Board of Directors also shared recommendations based on research conducted by Dr. Katina Pollock, Western University, on the role of democratically elected local voice in public education. 'Local voice in decision-making at the school system level across Canada' is the first academic study to explore the impact of local democratic voices including the impact of losing elected school boards in Canada. Commissioned by the CSBA, the report highlights the loss of transparency, public engagement, accountability, and community representation in jurisdictions where elected school boards have been eliminated.

During the visit to Ottawa, the CSBA met with over 20 Members of Parliament, Senators, and senior staff from several parties.

The Canadian School Boards Association, founded in 1923, represents elected school board members throughout Canada. The CSBA advocates for public education advancements and quality governance. It offers professional development, research, and collaboration opportunities while working with education partners to support students, schools, families, and communities.

The delegation to Ottawa included SSBA President Jaimie Smith-Windsor, who also serves as Vice-President of the Canadian School Boards Association.

CSBA colleagues met with federal leaders including Raymond Gagné (left image), Speaker of the Senate of Canada; Saskatchewan Senator David M. Arnot (centre); and Saskatoon-Grasswood Member of Parliament Kevin Waugh (right).

The SSBA has finalized a detailed funding analysis in the form of an Education Funding Discussion Paper as part of our evidence-based approach to a path forward that serves all Saskatchewan students and supports a strong publicly funded education system for years to come. The analysis supports the SSBA's advocacy for sufficiency, predictability, sustainability plus investment in publicly funded education. First, we need to eliminate the funding gap. Then, we need a plan for new investment. For more information, view the one-pager and access the full report under Advocacy Activity on the SSBA website.

Orange Shirt Day Recognized in Saskatchewan

School boards throughout the province again officially recognized "Orange Shirt Day", on Monday, Sept. 30, together with communities across the country, as requested annually by the SSBA.

Sept. 30 has also been proclaimed federally as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

"On behalf of Saskatchewan's 27 school boards, the SSBA is encouraging everyone to participate in Orange Shirt Day," said Jaimie Smith-Windsor, SSBA president.

"This day represents an opportunity for our school communities, and all residents of the province, to expand our understandings, to reflect on the history and harmful legacy of residential schools, and to commit to growing together and toward reconciliation," she said.

To provide opportunity to unite in a spirit of reconciliation and hope for our future generations, Orange Shirt Day is part of a larger movement in the country.

The Government of Saskatchewan proclaims the day every year at the request of the SSBA based on a resolution that was adopted in 2016.

SSBA Welcomes School Food Programs Researcher

In September, doctoral student Kaylee Michnik joined to support the SSBA as a School Food Programs Researcher. Michnik earlier this year submitted a successful proposal to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for a Health System Impact Fellowship to provide one-year funding to continue her PhD studies and work with the SSBA to further efforts in this important area.

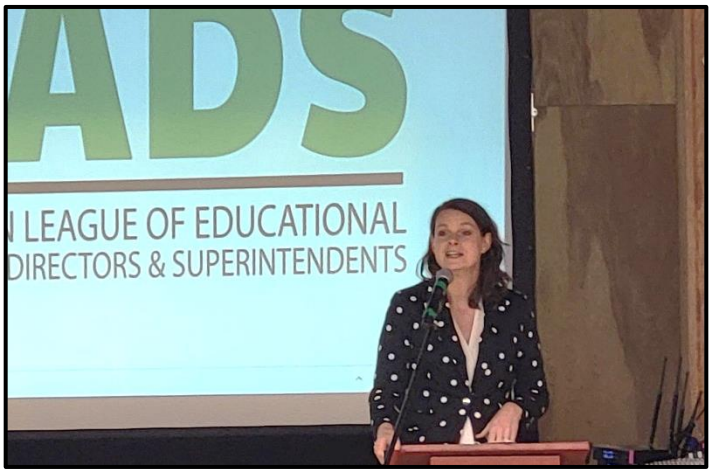
Michnik is a Registered Dietitian with 10 years of Canadian public health experience, working with regional and Indigenous-led health authorities, and municipal, provincial and federal governments. Michnik is currently a doctoral student at the University of Saskatchewan focusing on school food programs. Michnik will primarily be working on supporting the newly established SSBA School Food Programs Roundtable, including working to increase data collection, collaboration and knowledge sharing towards best-practice school food programs.

Association Activity

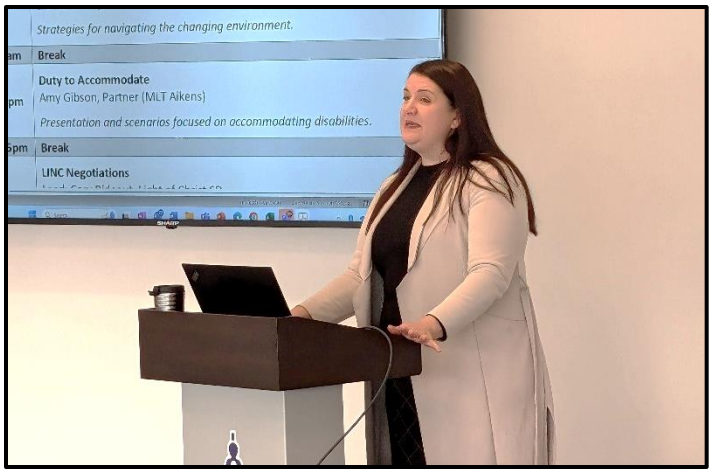
At the CSBA Congress in July, SSBA President Jaimie Smith-Windsor was elected Vice-President for CSBA.

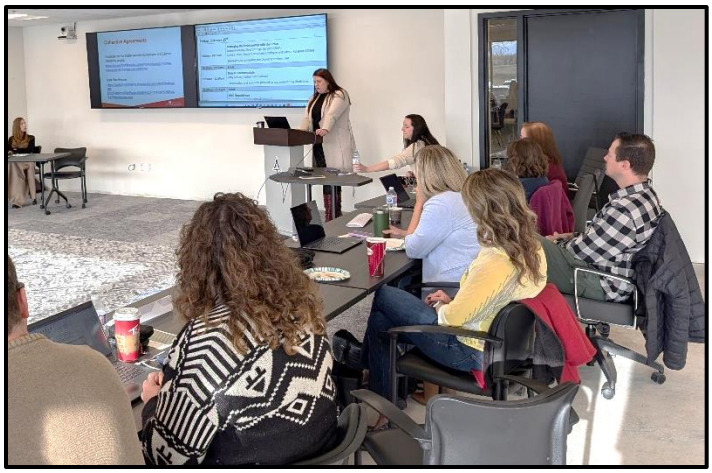
Jaimie Smith-Windsor represented Saskatchewan during the Cross Canada Check In annual presentation.

The SSBA's Darren McKee presented the inaugural CSBA National Reconciliation Partnership Award.



SSBA President Jaimie Smith-Windsor delivered remarks to attendees at the LEADS event in August.





Linnea Olson – Senior Consultant, Employee and Labour Relations, and Jolene Horejda – Director, Legal Services, provided a presentation to the Human Resources Network for member school divisions.

"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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Jaimie Smith-Windsor

Vice-President:
Dr. Shawn Davidson

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Jerome Niezgoda

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Jolene Horejda

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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 dates in 2024:

School Board Elections
Nov. 13

Fall Assembly
Dec. 1-3
Regina

Please visit our website for Agenda and Registration information.

Fall Assembly

Keynote Speaker:

Jody Wilson-Raybould 'Courageous Leadership'

The Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, the daughter of a hereditary chief and Indigenous leader, always knew that she would seek leadership roles and responsibilities. As a lawyer, an advocate, and a leader, she's built a strong reputation as a bridge builder and champion of good governance and accountability. She shares her unique perspective as both a community and political leader on topics like Indigenous rights and reconciliation, democracy and governance, leadership, and justice.

Wilson-Raybould was first elected as a Member of Parliament in 2015. She was appointed the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, making her the first Indigenous person to serve in this portfolio. In January 2019, she was appointed the Minister of Veterans Affairs of Canada and Associate Minister of National Defence, positions she held until her resignation from cabinet in February 2019. During the 2019 election, Wilson-Raybould was re-elected as an Independent MP, making her Canada's first ever female Independent MP elected and the only elected Independent in the 43rd Parliament of Canada.

Wilson-Raybould is the bestselling author of three books, the writing-prize-finalist political memoir *"Indian" in the Cabinet: Speaking Truth to Power*; *From Where I Stand: Rebuilding Indigenous Nations for a Stronger Canada*; and her most recent one, *True Reconciliation: How to Be a Force For Change*.