

**Regular Meeting of the Board
Agenda**

Thursday, October 10, 2019

8:00 PM

Board Room

Administration Office

181 Henlow Bay, Winnipeg, MB R3Y 1M7

1. ATTENDANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER

Comments:

The content of the Informational Reports has been reviewed by Trustees prior to the Board Meeting. The reports reflect discussions and activities of the Committees. At Board Meetings, if Trustees wish to speak or to ask questions regarding a particular report included in the Information Reports section of the Board Meeting agenda - that needs to be identified at the time the agenda is amended. Recommended motions from Committees are addressed separately in the agenda.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

4. BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

5. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS, SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS

1. Standing Committee Reports:

- a. Report of the Committee Meeting of the Whole held on September 26, 2019;
- b. Report of the Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole held on September 26, 2019;
- c. Committee Report of the Finance and Planning Committee Meeting held on September 30, 2019;
- d. Committee Report of the Human Resources and Policy Committee Meeting held on September 23, 2019.

2. Other Reports:

- a. Teacher Contracts (Permanent and Term) as listed in the Teacher Contracts Report

dated October 10, 2019;

- b. Teacher Contract Alterations as listed in the Teacher Contract Alterations Report dated October 10, 2019;
- c. Substitute Teacher Contracts as listed in the 2019-20 Substitute Teacher Contracts Report dated October 10, 2019;
- d. Resignations as listed in the Resignations Report dated October 10, 2019;
- e. Disbursements June, July and August 2019.

Purpose:

To consider receiving the Standing Committee Reports, Special Committee Report and Other Reports as information, and

To consider ratifying Teacher Contracts (Permanent and Term) as listed in the Teacher Contracts Report dated October 10, 2019, and

To approve Teacher Contract Alterations as listed in the Teacher Contract Alterations Report dated October 10, 2019, and

To consider ratifying Substitute Teacher Contracts as listed in the 2019-20 Substitute Teacher Contracts Report dated October 10, 2019, and

To consider receiving resignations as listed in the Resignations Report dated October 10, 2019, and

To consider approving Disbursements for the periods June 1-30 2019, July 1-31, 2019 and August 1-30, 2019.

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 Active and Safe Routes to School

Purpose: To make a presentation to the Board. D. Penner with Green Action Centre will present to the Board.

7. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Community Hub at Ryerson School

Purpose: To make a presentation to the Board. A. Abdikheir will present to the Board.

8. BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS

9. BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

10. BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE

11. **BY-LAWS AND/OR POLICIES**
12. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DISCUSSION**
13. **STANDING AND SPECIAL/ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - 13.1 **Buildings, Property and Transportation Committee**
 - 13.2 **Communication and Community Relations Committee**
 - 13.3 **Education Committee**
 - 13.4 **Finance and Planning Committee**
 - 13.5 **Human Resources and Policy Committee**
 - 13.5.1 **Policy JLC and Regulation JLC-R - Student Health Services and Requirements**
Purpose: To consider Committee recommendation.
 - 13.6 **Negotiations Committee**
 - 13.7 **Pembina Trails School Division Educational Support Fund Inc.**
 - 13.8 **Pembina Trails Voices**
 - 13.9 **Council of Presidents**
 - 13.10 **Boards/Association Council on Education (B.A.C.E)**
14. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
 - 14.1 **Director of Facilities and Operations Contract**
Purpose: To receive a report from the Secretary-Treasurer and consider approving the contract.
 - 14.2 **Memorandum of Agreement - EAPT**
Purpose: To receive a report from the Secretary-Treasurer.
 - 14.3 **Superintendent Contract**
Purpose: To consider approving.
 - 14.4 **Student Accident Insurance 2019-20**
Purpose: To receive a report from the Secretary-Treasurer.

15. NEW BUSINESS

15.1 CSBA 2019 Congress

Purpose: To receive a report with respect to attendance at the 2019 CSBA Congress.

16. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION LIST

17. QUESTIONS FROM TRUSTEES

18. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

19. REQUIREMENT FOR A COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE

20. ADJOURNMENT



LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND SERVICE FOR MANITOBA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

September 25, 2019

TO: The Board Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and Superintendent, All Divisions and Districts

FROM: Heather Demetriooff, Director, Education and Communication Services

RE: November 22 and 23 Trustee Professional Development and Meetings

Please find attached the preliminary program and registration form for the Manitoba School Boards Association upcoming trustee professional development event and meetings. All sessions will be held on November 22 and 23, at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg. An overview of these two days is as follows.

November 22: Trustee Professional Development

This day will consist of two plenary sessions, two banks of concurrent workshops (with a minimum of three offerings per bank), and an update on the status of and issues facing school boards across Canada. A preliminary list of workshop topics is provided in the attached program; this will be augmented in the coming weeks, and a full list with descriptions will be distributed in late October. No pre-selection of sessions is required; delegates will be able to choose which session(s) to attend on-site.

A \$125 registration fee will apply to the November 22 sessions.

November 23: Association General Meeting and Regional Meetings

There will be three main components to the November 23 session, as follows:

- a general session for all trustees dedicated to association business, including an update on the work of the association, a financial report, introduction of executive resolutions (to be voted on in March), and nominations for positions to be elected in March;
- regional meetings (breakouts), for the presentation and discussion of regional resolutions, MUST Fund elections (where terms are expiring or vacancies otherwise exist), and discussion of regional issues; and
- a general session for information sharing and discussion of provincial issues.

There is no cost to attend on November 23, although pre-registration is required to enable us to make the necessary arrangements for meeting space and meals.

The registration deadline for these events is November 13, 2019. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at hdemetriooff@mbschoolboards.ca. Thank you.

:hd

Attachment

Trustee PD & Association Meetings

Registration Form • Victoria Inn Winnipeg • November 22 & 23, 2019

To Register:

Please return this completed form to the association office no later than **November 13**. Please fax to the attention of **Jennifer Esau** (204-231-1356) or email: jesau@mbschoolboards.ca. Forms can also be mailed to: 191 Provencher Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R2H 0G4

Cancellation Policy:

Full refunds will be made for registrations cancelled prior to the registration deadline indicated above. No refunds will be available for cancellations received after that date, but substitutions will be allowed.

(Please Print)

Division/District:

Name	Position	Trustee PD (Nov. 22)	General & Regional Meetings (Nov. 23)

Total Fees	\$	+ GST (5%)	\$	Total Payable	\$
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Cheque enclosed: _____ Please invoice: _____

THINGS TO NOTE:

- Registration fee for November 22 is \$125 plus GST, which includes materials, lunch and breaks.
- There is no registration fee for November 23; lunch will be provided.
- Rooms are available at the Victoria Inn Winnipeg, 1808 Wellington Avenue, at a rate of \$136, single or double occupancy. Phone (204) 786-4801, and cite Group# 867017 to obtain the conference rate within our room block.
- Contact **Jennifer** at the association office should you have specific food allergies or dietary restrictions.

SCHEDULE:

The program will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days. Registration will open at 8:00 a.m.

Fall Professional Development & Meetings

Victoria Inn, Winnipeg
November 22 & 23, 2019

Program Overview

Friday, November 22, 2019

Professional Development

Time	Event
8:00 a.m.	Registration—Centennial Ballroom Foyer—refreshments available
9:00 a.m.	Welcome—Alan Campbell, President
9:15 a.m.	Plenary session: Smoking and vaping and lung failure, oh my! Presenters: Sarah Hawkins, Canadian Cancer Society, Anjie Valgardson, Manitoba Lung Association, John McDonald, Manitoba Tobacco Reduction Alliance, and Amanda Nash, Heart and Stroke Foundation
10:15 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	Workshops 1*
11:45 a.m.	Lunch Cross-Canada Check-in—CSBA President Laurie French
1:15 p.m.	Plenary session: Methamphetamine: Community Under Siege Presenters: Rod Bodner, documentary filmmaker, James Favel, Bear Clan Patrol, and a representative from the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (to be confirmed)
2:30 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m.	Workshops 2*
4:00 p.m.	Adjournment

*Topics and speakers confirmed to date include:

- a legal perspective on social media (Paul Grouer, Fillmore Riley)
- legislative update (George Coupland, Director of Labour Relations)
- Manitoba Schools Insurance and risk management (Darren Thomas, Risk Manager)
- The Lighthouse Study: Connecting School Board's Work and Student Achievement (Donna Davidson)
- Through a governance lens: The board's role in championing innovation and change (Janis Arnold, Board Development Consultant)
- Loss of school board taxation authority: The Canadian experience (Josh Watt, Executive Director)

Saturday, November 23, 2019

General Meeting and Regional Meetings

Time	Event
9:00 a.m.	General session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association overview/update—Alan Campbell, President • Financial report/budget—Alan Campbell, President • Executive resolutions to date • MUST Fund report—Justin Rempel, Labour Relations Consultant • Report to the Nominating Committee and nominations for positions to be elected at the March Convention: Vice-President (6000+), and Directors for Regions 1, 3 and 5 (one position)
10:45 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Regional Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional resolutions (Director) • MUST Fund elections (Regions 1, 4 and 5 only—staff) • Regional issues (Director)
12:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Provincial issues
4:00 p.m.	Adjournment

MORE TOPICS TO COME.

A full list, with descriptions, will be distributed in October.
Watch for details on our website at mbschoolboards.ca

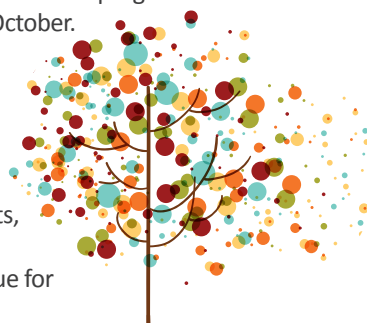


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FALL MEETINGS

The registration package for our fall professional development day and general/regional meetings will be distributed in today's divisional mail. Friday, November 22, will be comprised of a series of plenary and workshop sessions on current and emerging issues of significance to school boards. Today's package includes general information about sessions that have been confirmed to date. More are being added, and a detailed program with full descriptions will be distributed in October.

November 23, which includes both general and regional meeting components, is dedicated to association business, including a report from the President, presentation of financial statements, nominations and resolutions. The Victoria Inn in Winnipeg is the venue for this event.



CSBA CONGRESS AND NATIONAL TRUSTEE GATHERING ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Planning is already well underway for the 2020 CSBA Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education, July 2 to 5 in Banff, Alberta. The theme for this event will be Standing Stronger Together. Confirmed speakers include Lieutenant-General The Honourable Roméo Dallaire and educational change and leadership expert Andy Hargreaves. The Alberta School Boards Association, host organization of the 2020 event, is currently seeking [session proposals](#) for the Congress and Gathering. Specific areas of interest

Standing Stronger Together
Soyons Plus Fort Ensemble



include student health and wellness, educational governance and leadership, and connecting research, policy and practice. The deadline for receipt of proposals is October 11.

Event registration will open once details are finalized, but [accommodations](#) may be booked now by following the online links and instructions.

ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS UPDATE

The development of standards under *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act* is continuing, with the final two standards currently under discussion and review by the Accessibility Advisory Council. The Council has posted its draft accessibility standards on [Information and Communication](#), and held a public forum on the scope and intent of the accessibility standard for the [design of public spaces](#). Information about the legislation and already-adopted standards may be accessed through the [Accessibility Manitoba website](#). We'll keep you advised of further developments as they are known.

BREAK THE FAKE!

It can be tough to tell what's true and what's "fake news" just by looking at a headline, but it's easy to do a quick check and get the real facts when something doesn't look right online. That's the premise behind this year's [Media Literacy Week](#) (October 7 to 11), sponsored by [Media Smarts](#). The goal is to help Canadians (and especially young people) Break the Fake by stopping the spread of false information and getting people to check before sharing. To help in this regard, Media Smarts has developed Break the Fake resources, including [fact-checking tip sheets](#) and [lesson plans](#) for educators.



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR COLLABORATION IN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

With Orange Shirt Day just around the corner, now would be a great time to check out the [National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education](#) website. The Centre is hosted by First Nations University of Canada. It is grounded in principles of respect, reciprocity, and relationship, which are understood in Indigenous ways and honoured according to Indigenous protocols and customs. In accordance with its mission, the Centre highlights innovative and exciting examples of Indigenous education from across the country and facilitates collaborative networking. The website includes materials on Indigenous languages (including audio), a resource library, a section dedicated to reconciliation, and more.



**INDIGENOUS
EDUCATION**
The National Centre for Collaboration

MEMBER SURVEY

Just a reminder that our quadrennial membership satisfaction survey is now underway. Invitations to participate and survey links were sent to all board chairs, secretary-treasurers and superintendents last week by Executive Director Josh Watt. Please complete this survey at your earliest convenience, and help us better serve Manitoba's school boards.



follow us [@MBSchoolboards](https://twitter.com/MBSchoolboards)





Manitoba Association of Parliamentarians

ONE DAY EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

Saturday, November 2, 2019

Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites

1800 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Registration 9:30 a.m.)

SEMINAR TOPIC:

“We Have to Stop Meeting Like This!”

Have you ever been to a meeting which was too long, monotonous and dull? Or being dominated by a few members, to the exclusion of input from others? Or getting unraveled at the first sign of controversy? Ever wondered whether anyone was listening and learning from the debate, in order to make informed decisions, or whether most attendees decided in advance on how they'd vote? Ever suffered from *meeting fatigue*?

Well, suffering is optional... In this seminar we will discuss practical tools and ideas to help make your meetings orderly, focused, efficient, equally inclusive, civilized, respectful, and even... enjoyable. Learn to chair or participate in meetings effectively. Gain tools to tackle or prevent damaging boardroom problems, so your group can deliver smart leadership and informed decisions.

Morning speakers will include topics as:

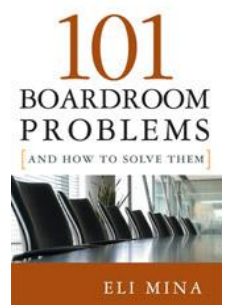
- **Chaotic Disorderly Meetings**
- **Procedural Issues and Dysfunctional Boards**



AFTERNOON

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Eli Mina

Eli is a Vancouver-based consultant, meeting facilitator, mentor and coach and Registered Parliamentarian. He speaks on Board effectiveness, group decision-making, and parliamentary procedure. He is author of five published books including “*101 Boardroom Problems and How to Solve Them*.” Eli’s website is www.elimina.com.



To register for the Seminar go the Manitoba Association of Parliamentarians website:

<https://parliamentarians-mb.ca/events/>

BONUS FOR EARLY BIRD REGISTRANTS:

A copy of “*101 Boardroom Problems and How to Solve Them*” will be provided to all those who register by **Friday, October 18, 2019.**

For more information contact: Marilyn Robinson at president@parliamentarians-mb.ca



LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND SERVICE FOR MANITOBA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

Winnipeg, Manitoba

For immediate Release

September 26, 2019

HISTORIC SUPREME COURT VISIT AN IMPORTANT REMINDER OF SCHOOL BOARD ROLES

For the first time in nearly a century and a half, the Supreme Court of Canada convened the second of two appeals outside of Ottawa today, which serves as the regular seat for the highest judicial authority in Canada.

"On behalf of Manitoba's school boards, we welcome the Supreme Court Justices to Winnipeg," said Alan M. Campbell, president of the Manitoba School Boards Association. "The Court's presence here serves as an important reminder of the importance of protecting several core Canadian values, including democracy, the division of powers, the rule of law and protection of minority rights."

In no other instance has the Supreme Court's decision-making role been as important than in cases pertaining to community rights in respect of education. It is therefore fitting that today's appeal, in the case of *Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique v. British Columbia (B.C.)* is being heard in Manitoba, the flashpoint for several landmark decisions concerning minority francophone rights by the Supreme Court of Canada, and where community rights to ownership and control of local education remain critical to student success.

"It is indeed noteworthy that one school board in particular in our province, la Division scolaire franco-manitobaine, was established as a direct result of the Supreme Court's interpretation of minority language community rights concerning the future of their children," continued president Campbell. "In the landmark 1993 reference to the Court by the Province of Manitoba, the Justices found that community rights to control the education of their children remained paramount, from classrooms, to playgrounds to the very posters on the wall."

The Court's findings in *Reference re: Public Schools Act (Man.), s. 79(3), (4) and (7), [1993] 1 SCR 839* provided for the establishment of a school board chosen by members of Manitoba's francophone minority community in recognition that local voices and local choices are best positioned to provide the programs, supports and services that will meet the needs of students and communities. The Manitoba Government later amended *The Public Schools Act* to provide for such a school board in the form of the Commission scolaire franco-manitobaine.

At issue in the current appeal being heard in Winnipeg: under *Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique v. British Columbia (B.C.)* is provincial support for services as required to sustain a vibrant minority language program for francophone students.

"School boards across Canada are watching today's case very closely," stated president Campbell. "An important reality of local choices being made for the benefit of students, whether in minority language contexts or majority language contexts, focuses on the availability of resources to ensure all students' needs are met."

"As always, such cases reflect much more than questions of French or English rights in education. Decisions made by the Supreme Court touch upon the essence of every community's right to provide quality education for the continuing advantage of every citizen."

.../2

In Canada, school board governance reflects a long held democratic heritage dating back to before Confederation in 1867. Being situated close to the same communities where matters of local education are decided, trustees have worked in partnership with provincial governments to ensure that our nation's public schools are ranked as the leading education system in the English speaking world. This includes the important contributions made to achieving this standing by every province, including Manitoba, and by both English and French schools.

“In Manitoba, close cooperation between the provincial government and local school boards have ensured that our public schools remain among the world's best,” concluded president Campbell. “Going forward, it is important to recognize that this division of power between a strong central government and local communities remains fundamental to the protection of this important standing.”

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Contacts:

English: Alan Campbell, President
(204) 886-7121
acampbell@isd21.mb.ca

English or French: Josh Watt, Executive Director
(204) 918-1864
jwatt@mbschoolboards.ca



**Canadian School Boards Association
L'Association canadienne des commissions/conseils scolaires**

**The national voice of school boards * Le porte-parole national des
commissions/conseils scolaires **

October 2, 2019

**Statement from CSBA President in response to Quebec Government's Intent to Abolish
French Governing School Boards**

The Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) and the members and communities we represent across the country are shocked and saddened to hear the Quebec provincial government's interest in robbing their French-speaking citizens of a public education system governed by democratically elected community members dedicated to public education.

The democratic practice of electing representation to serve the needs of citizens is a cornerstone of Canadian society, and this applies to representation supporting public education. Governing school boards are members of the communities they serve, dedicated to the public education system, and providing access and transparency to local decisions. The solution to concerns with a democratic system is to improve it, not to eliminate it.

If the provincial government of Quebec has such concerns with governing school boards, we call on them to work **WITH** the provincial school board associations to strengthen these roles in service of students to whom they are accountable. Recent research strongly supported that "high functioning governing school boards support student success and quality public education", found here <http://www.cdnsba.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Elected-School-Boards-Literature-Review-FINAL.pdf>. Governments would be wise to strengthen this partnership.

The government should also consider the election process for governing school boards if voter turnout is a concern. Low voter turnout is a problem that touches all levels of government. In other jurisdictions across Canada, school board elections are tied with municipal elections to support voter turnout, reduce duplication of costs and improve accessibility. Quebec should consider following a similar approach.

All people of Quebec have a right to democratically elected governing school boards in their public education systems, regardless if schooling is in French or English. We have seen the loss of majority English governing school boards in Nova Scotia and the negative effect this is having on the education community. Parents, guardians, students and education staff have spoken out that they no longer have access to policy and decision makers. This elimination of community voice has not improved public education. Having community members govern public education is vital for both majority and minority communities.

Public education deserves community representation via all governing school boards who have the autonomy to make the best decisions for their students. We urge the Minister to reconsider this legislation and work with school boards to strengthen student success for all citizens, for now and future generations.

For more information contact:

Laurie French, President CSBA, (613) 217-1875



**Canadian School Boards Association
L'Association canadienne des commissions/conseils scolaires**

**The national voice of school boards * Le porte-parole national des commissions/conseils scolaires **

Le mercredi 2 octobre 2019

**Déclaration de la présidente de l'ACCS suite à l'intention du gouvernement du Québec
d'abolir les commissions scolaires francophones**

L'Association canadienne des commissions/conseils scolaires (ACCS) ainsi que les membres et les communautés que nous représentons d'un océan à l'autre du pays sont choqués et attristés par l'intention du gouvernement provincial du Québec de priver ses citoyens d'expression française d'un système d'éducation publique gouverné par des membres de la communauté élus démocratiquement qui ont l'enseignement public à cœur.

La pratique démocratique qui consiste à élire une représentation pour répondre aux besoins des citoyens est une pierre angulaire de la société canadienne et cela s'applique à la représentation qui appuie l'enseignement public. Les commissions scolaires sont des membres des communautés qu'elles desservent, se consacrent au système d'éducation publique et assurent l'accès aux décisions locales ainsi que leur transparence. La solution aux préoccupations liées à un système démocratique est de l'améliorer et non de l'éliminer.

Si le gouvernement provincial du Québec a de telles préoccupations concernant les commissions scolaires, nous lui demandons de travailler **AVEC** les associations provinciales de commissions scolaires afin de renforcer ces rôles au service des élèves devant lesquels elles sont responsables. Des recherches récentes ont appuyé sans équivoque la conclusion que « les commissions et les conseils scolaires très performants

favorisent la réussite des élèves et l'enseignement public de qualité » (vous référer au <http://www.cdnsba.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Elected-School-Boards-Literature-Review-FINAL.pdf>). Les gouvernements auraient intérêt à renforcer ce partenariat.

Par ailleurs, le gouvernement devrait évaluer le processus électoral des commissions scolaires si la participation électorale est inquiétante. La faible participation électorale est un problème qui touche tous les niveaux de gouvernement. Dans d'autres régions à l'échelle du Canada, les élections des commissions scolaires sont jumelées aux élections municipales pour favoriser la participation électorale, réduire la duplication des coûts et améliorer l'accessibilité. Le Québec devrait envisager d'adopter une approche semblable.

L'ensemble de la population québécoise a droit à des commissions scolaires élues démocratiquement dans ses systèmes d'éducation publique, que l'enseignement soit en français ou en anglais. Nous avons été témoins de la perte des conseils scolaires de la majorité anglophone en Nouvelle-Écosse et des conséquences négatives qui en ont découlé pour la collectivité éducative. Les parents, tuteurs, élèves et membres du personnel d'éducation se sont levés pour dire qu'ils n'ont plus accès aux décideurs politiques. Cette élimination de la voix communautaire n'a pas amélioré l'enseignement public. La gouvernance de l'enseignement public par des membres de la collectivité est essentielle à la fois pour les communautés majoritaires et minoritaires.

L'enseignement public mérite une représentation communautaire par le biais de toutes les commissions et les conseils scolaires qui ont l'autonomie de prendre les meilleures décisions pour leurs élèves. Nous exhortons le ministre à revoir ce projet de loi et à travailler avec les commissions scolaires en vue de favoriser la réussite des élèves pour tous les citoyens des générations actuelles et futures.

Pour plus d'information:

Laurie French, Présidente, l'ACCCS (613) 217-1875



4TH ANNUAL

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION GATHERING



TĀNITA ĀSĀY Ē-ITĀHĀK

WHERE ARE WE NOW?



MARCH 3 & 4, 2020

THOMPSON REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Secondary and post-secondary students
- Teachers, instructors, faculty, administrators
- Business community
- Community organizations
- Residential school survivors
- General public
- UCN staff

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sheri Domenico,
sher@plannersplus.ca
204-257-5205

Kelly Forgala,
kelly@plannersplus.ca



From: [Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba](#)
To: [Josh Watt](#)
Subject: 2019 AAEM/ArtSpark AGM & Letter to Members
Date: Friday, September 27, 2019 10:36:37 AM





September 11, 2019

RE: PROPOSED DISSOLUTION OF THE AAEM

Dear AAEM Member,

This letter is to bring you up to date on the current state of affairs within the AAEM, and to let you know that at a recent meeting of our board, we voted to pursue dissolution of the organization, including the forwarding of a motion to do so at our forthcoming AGM this October 2nd, 2019.

As you likely know, the AAEM began as an ad hoc committee struck under the leadership of the Manitoba Arts Council (MAC) in 2001. Subsequently, the AAEM became incorporated as a non-profit organization and has been

administered by a series of dedicated volunteer boards ever since. Throughout its existence, the AAEM has received critical financial support from MAC through annual grants. While we have also consistently sought to diversify our funding sources, receiving important supplementary support from the Winnipeg Foundation and Francofonds Inc., for example, as well as membership fees and conference registrations, MAC's support has been foundational. MAC has enabled us to undertake a wide range of annual projects and engage our administrative assistant and independent coordinator, Sylvie Cottee. Without MAC's support, it would have been impossible for our organization to achieve all that it has, and for that we are all very grateful. Unfortunately, however, under MAC's new granting guidelines, the AAEM as an organization involved in arts education and advocacy, no longer qualifies under any of their funding categories.

While the loss of our primary source of organizational funding would, in and of itself, provide grounds for questioning our viability, there are other circumstances as well that are part of the present discussion. For example, a recent AAEM grant application to the Winnipeg Foundation, in which we sought project funding for an initiative to coordinate a culturally inclusive line-up of student art and performance as part of the upcoming Canadian Network for Arts and Learning (CNAL) Conference this October was also unsuccessful. The Winnipeg Foundation had approved a significantly larger grant directly to the CNAL for this event, and that may well have factored into their decision. Nonetheless, this has left us even more fiscally hamstrung for the immediate term. Moreover, in combination with our loss of MAC support for not only this year, but presumably years to come, we felt compelled to consider dissolution.

There are further, and indeed more positive considerations as well that are part of our thinking. These concern our record of achievement, and the fact that some of the original goals of our organization have been met. The AAEM was established out of a need to advocate for arts curriculum renewal in our province, and to provide a forum for stakeholders in the arts to advocate for the place of the arts and education in our schools. In 2001, professional associations existed exclusively for Music and Visual Arts educators, and the original alliance brought those groups together (an achievement in itself) along with, for the first time in Manitoba, leaders in drama and dance education around the shared mission of speaking with a united voice and calling for more and better arts education for Manitobans. Over the course of the following two

decades, and thanks in large part to the advocacy efforts of the AAEM, Manitoba Education established an arts curriculum renewal process and created two permanent arts consultant positions to oversee the creation of what are now the official K-12 Curriculum Frameworks in Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts for Manitoba schools. As well, professional associations in Dance and Drama now exist alongside those in Music and Visual Arts as official MTS Special Area Groups in Education (SAGE), ensuring that ongoing advocacy and professional learning opportunities across the arts in Manitoba are and will continue to be in place.

While we believe that new curricula and new professional arts-teaching associations have strengthened arts education in Manitoba, we have also continued to identify other areas where we believe that action to support and improve arts education is warranted. For example, our “ArtSpark” events have highlighted youth achievement in the arts and provided forums for hundreds of student artists to share ideas about the value of the arts in their learning, and our “Building Bridges” think-tanks have assembled arts educators, students, representatives of community arts groups, and indigenous artists, speakers and student performers to explore the challenges of reconciliation following the publication of Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s *Calls to Action*.

The AAEM has always highlighted the ideas, works and performances of children and youth as the most powerful form of advocacy for arts education. Given our imminent dissolution, we will trust that the presence of quality arts education in Manitoba schools and communities will continue to support the development of inspiring young artists as a critical source of advocacy. We can promise that as individuals, our current board members will continue to hold on to the values of the AAEM and seek ways to speak out and work in support of the arts in education when opportunities arise, and we hope that you will do the same.

Sincerely,

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- Joe Halas, Vice-Chair
- Marie-Claude McDonald, Treasurer

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- Velvet Cadre, Director
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