

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

THE ADVOCATE



Welcome to the February 15, 2023 issue of *The Advocate*!

In this edition, you'll find a message from the PSBAA President Dennis MacNeil, information about the PSBAA upcoming events such as the Spring General Assembly, where the August PSBC is being hosted, highlights of the February PSBC, grant opportunities, a Good News story, the Word Search contest and more!



The next edition of *The Advocate* will be published on February 28, 2023.

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INDIGENOUS CANADA ONLINE COURSE

Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta that explores the different histories and contemporary points of view of Indigenous Peoples living in Canada. From an Indigenous standpoint, this course explores complex experiences Indigenous Peoples face today from a historical and critical perspective, highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations.

Topics for the 12 lessons include the fur trade and other exchange relationships, land claims and environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts and alliances, Indigenous political activism, and contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions.

[Click here for more information!](#)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We're All About Our Members!

With pandemic restrictions behind us, myself and our Executive Director and CEO have been back out on the road starting to meet with our valued school board members in person once again. While virtual meetings have been beneficial over the last two years, there is nothing better than getting to chat with our members in person and on location to discuss issues that are important in their jurisdiction.

Andrew Grove once said, "How well we communicate is determined not by how well we say things, but how well we are understood". As a member driven association there is nothing more important than listening and understanding what issues are important to each member school board and then working collaboratively to come up with potential solutions.

With each member school board having unique priorities, our in-person meetings have proven to be very productive and effective in understanding concerns the association can advocate for. Our in-person meetings allow for creative thinking on the spot that can potentially benefit all our member school boards. We are looking forward to continuing our tour into March.

With our first Public School Boards' Council (PSBC) meeting of the year wrapped up, we discussed some key issues the association will be advocating for on behalf of our members during the upcoming election that our members deemed most important. The Public School Boards' Association (PSBAA) has crafted some strong non-partisan messages to be campaigned during the coming months on behalf of our members and we would appreciate our members' support sharing these messages throughout the next few months.

The PSBC is a great way for our members to bring forward issues, concerns, ideas and future opportunities for the PSBAA to act on. We value these meetings as they provide a cohesive and collaborative opportunity for all member representatives to come together and generate actionable ideas.

The PSBC also provides our membership with professional development education that is of interest to members. We listen to our members regarding topics they are intrigued about and incorporate these educational opportunities into our PSBC events. From member feedback, our PSBC professional development continues to provide interesting and engaging professional development opportunities members enjoy.

To add to the great start of the year, I was honoured to receive the Queens Platinum Jubilee Medal for outstanding service, which recognizes significant contributions to the province. I would like to thank the Minister of Education and her office for recognizing my dedication to improving public school education in our province.

I look forward to continuing to connect with all our members during the exciting year ahead and getting back out on the road to meet with all our member boards individually in person!

DENNIS MACNEIL, PRESIDENT



UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Public School Boards' Council (PSBC) meetings

- **April 13-14, 2023**

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in west Edmonton for the April 2023 PSBC.

The April PSBC kicks off on Thursday, April 13, 2023, with registration at 8 a.m. and the Professional Learning Day to follow.

We will start the day with a presentation on the Things You Didn't Know of the Indian Act from Clarice Anderson and Sheila Williams. The presentation will walk us through some of the long-standing laws First Nation, Métis and Inuit faced and still encounter effects of today.

We will continue the day discussing Everything You Wanted To Know About Superintendent Performance Reviews and SLQ's with Brian Callaghan. Followed by a presentation from Sharon Friesen on Teacher and Professional Staff Recruitment and Retention for Rural and Northern Alberta.

Our special guest for the Thursday night Dinner and Lecture will be Janet Brown who will share her insights and provide you with exclusive information on her election predictions that you won't hear anywhere else. Janet has been polling and creating market research for over 25 years and she will definitely have some interesting predictions to share with us all before the provincial election in late May.

For more information, or to register please [CLICK HERE!](#)

PSBAA's Spring General Assembly

Thursday June 1st to Saturday June 3rd, 2023

Calgary, AB

Save these dates for PSBAA's Spring General Assembly!

[CLICK HERE to reserve your room at the Westin or to Register!](#)

Book your hotel room for the PSBAA August 2023 PSBC Meeting in Medicine Hat!

- **August 9-10, 2023**

The PSBAA room block is now open for reservations for the August 2023 PSBC at the Medicine Hat Lodge [Click here](#) to reserve your room block now - the room block fills quickly! You can also phone the Medicine Hat Lodge at 403-529-2222 to make your reservation. You'll need to identify yourself as a 2023 PSBAA member, provide the dates and quote the reference number - 080823PUB to receive the room block rate.



Check the Events page on the PSBAA website for more information.

PSBAA's 2023 Fall Conference and AGM

- **October 18 - 20, 2023**

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in west Edmonton

Save these dates for PSBAA's Fall Events!

More information coming soon!

APRIL PSBC DINNER AND LECTURE: GUEST SPEAKER



Janet Brown

Based in Calgary, Janet Brown is one of Alberta's most recognized pollsters and political analysts. With over 30 years of experience in polling and marketing research, Janet has developed a knack for asking the right people the right questions. Janet sees beyond the headlines and talk radio chatter to assess and interpret what's happening beneath the surface in Alberta politics.

Together with Trend Research, Janet Brown conducted the only poll during the 2019 Alberta provincial election with results that were within the margin of error for all political parties at both a provincial and regional level.

In partnership with journalist Paul McLoughlin, Janet publishes the Wild Ride Update, a quarterly report that weaves political insight with proprietary polling. Over the past five years, she has also led several large-scale public opinion research project for CBC Alberta, as part of their "Road Ahead" series.

Janet is often invited to comment on political and social trends. She is a regular commentator on the CBC Calgary News at Six, Alberta Primetime on CTV2, and the West of Centre Podcast.

She continues to be active in the academic community and has delivered guest lectures at the University of Calgary, Mount Royal University, and Concordia University in Montreal. Janet is co-author of a chapter in "Orange Chinook: Politics in the New Alberta," which was released by the University of Calgary Press in January 2019. Janet's chapter is titled "Marginally Better," and it analyses the publicly released polling from the 2015 Alberta election.

PSBC WRAP-UP

We Started off our 2023 events with an exciting and informative February PSBC

Last week we had our first Public School Boards' Council (PSBC) session of 2023 and what a great event it was!

On Thursday we started our professional learning off with an overview of the Election Readiness plan with Pam Boytinck, Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) Consultant. Our members were given the opportunity to review the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta campaign strategy as well as hear the campaign messages we will be publishing on their behalf. The strategically created campaign will offer our members nonpartisan messaging to share amongst their networks.

Brain Callaghan, PSBAA Consultant and Board Vice Chair for Canadian Rockies Public Schools provided a great overview of the trustee board boundary review and spent time explaining how Superintendent evaluations work. Our members found this information very useful and gained extra insight into how these processes work.

We spent the afternoon with Diana Bacon, PRP and PSBAA Parliamentarian, who spoke about Roberts Rules and gave some great tips on good governance practices, meeting etiquette, the correct ways to pass motions, consent practices and formal voting procedures.

Graham Thomson, Freelance Journalist, completed our day of professional learning discussing politics surrounding the UCP leadership race and the mechanisms Danielle Smith used to win the election. Graham then provided some exclusive insider information about recent activities ongoing in the Alberta provincial cabinet. After which, Graham discussed the current provincial election and his predictions based on some interesting statistic forecasts.

With the Friday PSBC meeting providing some great discussion from our Board of Directors, President and Executive Director and CEO on recent activities, the meeting offered a great opportunity for our members to understand what the PSBAA has been up to the last few months. As we look forward to the coming months, the PSBC February meeting has given our members the opportunity to see the projected outlook for the coming months and year ahead.

As always, the PSBAA looks forward to advocating on our members behalf and demonstrating the value of Public Education.

Election Readiness Engagement

Starting February 21, 2023, the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) will be launching our elections campaign for the Alberta provincial election that is slated for May 29, 2023. The PSBAA and Board of Directors have developed a non-partisan campaign to advocate for some of the key issues identified by our members at earlier Public School Boards' Council (PSBC) meetings.

The campaign will focus on funding, cross ministry support, charter/private schools, mental health and transportation. We will leverage digital media including social media, email and our website to engage media and constituents to vote for the party who they believe will support their key priorities.

The PSBAA will be posting content across key social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram, so make sure to follow us to see all our upcoming posts! For those that don't use social media often, we have some great "how to" videos in the members section of our website for extra support. We are asking our members to share the content we post onto their social networks to increase the messages reach and extend awareness of the key issues we are advocating for. Members can expect to see social media posts at 1pm every Monday and Thursday starting on February 21. If there is a holiday expect to see Mondays post scheduled for Tuesday.

Our members will also be receiving exclusive access to tailored opinionated articles and emails that the PSBAA will be sending to candidates, the board and school trustees. We will also be pitching to news outlet editors to request they incorporate our members key issues in their publication election coverage. So, keep an eye out in your inbox for more exciting, tailored content in the coming months!

To keep our members up to date with everything election- related, we have also added a new page to our website where all election related information will be stored for easy access. [Please click here](#) to check out our new web page, and login to the [member portal](#) for campaign messages, templates and other important information to stay up to date with our member advocacy efforts during the election period.

Please join our [private Facebook group](#) for any internal discussions required during the elections campaign period between members. Please note, that all posts for sharing will be on our public Facebook page.

We look forward to the coming months of campaigning for what matters to our members!



PSBAA SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

It's not too late to nominate a group or an individual!

Please check your email for the special recognition awards package distributed today, which includes the nomination forms.

The nomination forms are also available on the [member resources](#) section of the PSBAA website.

The Deadline for nominations are Friday, March 31, 2023

Calling all photographers! Do you like taking photos? We're holding a photo contest!

Email your high-resolution (5 MB file limit each) photo(s) to communications@public-schools.ab.ca, along with a signed entry form ([click here](#)), indicating you have complied with Alberta FOIP requirements, and your contact information in case one of your photos is selected as a winner. If you want to enter more than one photo in the contest, please send each photo and the corresponding consent form in a separate email.

The photo contest deadline has been extended until May 1, 2023. Current residents of Alberta can participate; however, members of the PSBAA Board of Directors, PSBAA staff and contractors are not eligible to win a prize. [Click here to view the contest rules.](#)

The top-voted photo will win a \$300 gift card from the retailer of their choice from a list provided, followed by second place (\$200) and third place (\$100).

If you have any questions, please contact communications@public-schools.ab.ca.



In Loving Memory of TERRY RILEY

With great sympathy and sadness, we are sharing the passing of Terry Riley.

Terry served students and teachers at the Medicine Hat Public School Division (MHPSD) for over 20 years. Terry joined the board as a trustee thereafter for 14 years to continue with his dedication to MHPSD serving as the Chair for 6 consecutive years.

This quote provided by MHPSD really shows who Terry was at his core.

"I am prepared to meet my maker. Whether my maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter." - Winston Churchill.

For those who knew Terry, I am sure you can hear his voice and see the joy in his eyes as you read this quote. As we say farewell to Terry, a great inspiration friend and colleague, we send our love and sympathy to all those grieving for this great loss. **Rest in peace Terry.**

[Click here to view the obituary from Medicine Hat Public School Division.](#)

GRANTS

Electric Vehicles for Municipalities: rebate deadline March 31, 2023

Since 2019, we have provided rebates to local governments across Alberta for the purchase of electric vehicles. We can help you transition your community's vehicle fleet toward more fuel-efficient options, such as battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

The program supports the purchase of passenger vehicles (like the Chevrolet Bolt hatchback, Ford F-150 Lightning pickup truck and Kia Niro SUV), medium and heavy-duty trucks (such as refuse trucks), and non-road vehicles (such as ice resurfacers and grounds utility vehicles).

There is still time to apply for a rebate and accelerate your community's transition to EVs. Visit our website <https://mccac.ca/programs/electric-vehicles-for-municipalities-program> to learn more about the program and get started on an Expression of Interest today.



A Cup of Love

As February 24th, 2023, approaches, the date will mark the one year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The **Firefighter Aid Ukraine (FFAU)** has initiated the fundraiser, A Cup of Love, which asks schools across Alberta to sell hot chocolate to students and staff on February 24, 2023.

The proceeds from the event will go towards FFAU initiatives and more specifically to the **Misto Dobra orphanage** in Chernivtsi, Ukraine. Misto Dobra, means City of Goodness in Ukrainian, and the organization has provided shelter to more than 280 abandoned and orphaned Ukrainian children during the war, as well as provided sanctuary for women, children and elderly during the war.

How Can My School Get Involved?

Please send an email including your school's name, address, telephone number, email address and your schools' representative's contact name to info@firefigheraidukraine.com. Please include "Hot Chocolate Fundraiser" in the subject line and send your email. The FFAU will send a hot chocolate kit with detailed instructions to your school after the receipt of your email. If your school would like to host a special guest member from FFAU to serve the first cup of hot chocolate for print or media attention, please let FFAU know via email.

Thank you for your support in this cause!



GET STARTED

Award Deadlines

Alberta School Boards' Association's (ASBA) award deadlines are fast approaching. Get you nominations in soon!

ASBA encourages all boards to consider submitting nominations for students and teachers. All information instructing how to submit nominations can be found on the ASBA's website.

- Lieutenant Governor Student Awards: March 17
- Edwin Parr Teacher Award: March 17
- Friends of Education Award: March 17

Please send any questions or comments forward to awards@asba.ab.ca.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

PSBAA will post career opportunity ads on the website and in *The Advocate* for members free of charge. Check out the current career opportunities on the [PSBAA website](#).

Email a PDF copy of your career ad to Troy Tait at:

executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca

A GOOD NEWS STORY

Career Pathway: GCCHS Students Visit Local Coal Mine



The [Environmental Stewardship](#) Class from Grande Cache Community High School (GCCHS) visited their local coal mine, [CST Canada Coal Limited](#) (“CST Coal”). At CST Coal, students learned firsthand how coal is formed, extracted and used, and the best management practices that are followed to mitigate potential impacts on the environment. Connor Burdett, a biologist and resource management technologist at CST Coal, supervised and guided their tour.

First, students rode the Bus to a high-altitude viewpoint of No. 8 Mine, where they were fortunate to watch active mining operations involving heavy equipment (e.g. ‘shovels’). It was at No. 8 Mine where the group met up with [geologists](#) Brian Klappstein and Sylvan Burdett. Brian and Sylvan helped the class understand which types of coal are desirable for industrial processes and which type of coal is the primary focus at CST Coal. It just so happens that Grande Cache is a location rich in metallurgical coal, or coking coal, which is good quality coal that can be used in blast furnaces to make steel. In this setting, students were able to make real-world connections involving the extraction of [natural resources](#) (i.e. coal) and the production of materials (i.e. steel). Brian and Sylvan also helped answer student questions like, “how does CST Coal find the coal seams?” and “who decides where to mine?” They also discussed important business decisions that must be made related to the feasibility of coal [mining](#), some alternative forms of energy that can be used in low-scale production of steel, and what the future might look like for generations to come.

Their second stop on the tour was at a settling pond near Sheep Creek, where students observed how surface water that may be impacted by mining operations is purified prior to discharge. In addition to allowing solids to settle out, the settling pond also contained bio-remedial plants which are intended to remove toxic compounds, such as selenium, from the water. Students were able to make important connections between bioremediation and some of the plants they recognized (e.g. fireweed).

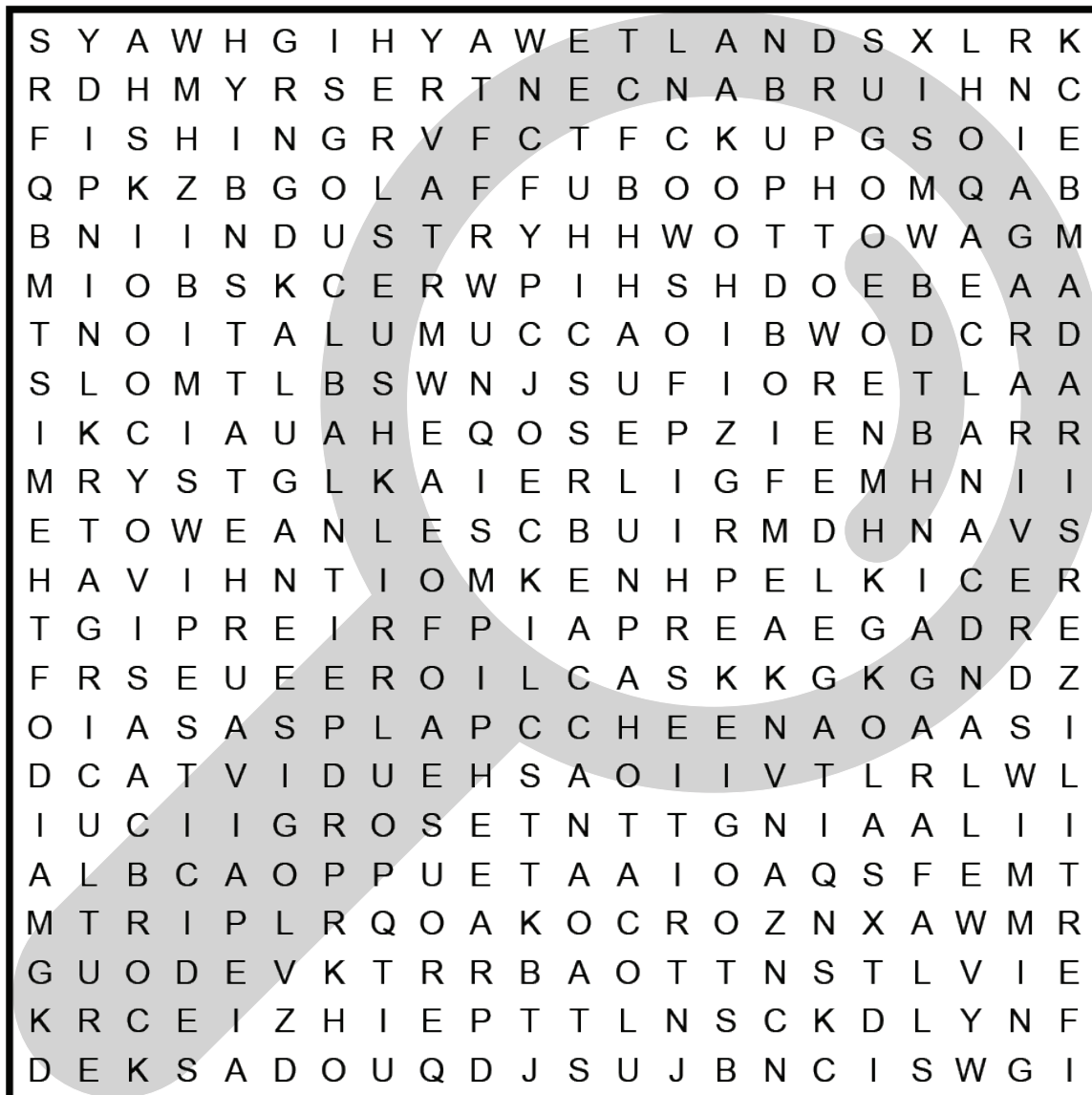
The third stop on the tour was near No. 12 Mine, which contains palaeontological resources (dinosaur tracks). Students were able to observe a 110 million-year-old track site containing Ankylosaur tracks, theropod tracks, and avian (bird) tracks. The discovery of this track site, found by coal mine workers is important because it gives information about how some dinosaurs got around and that they lived in groups. The field trip to CST Coal was a successful, eye-opening experience that GCCHS hopes to repeat with additional groups of students in the future. On behalf of GCCHS, a HUGE thank you to the staff at CST Coal for facilitating this learning opportunity for the students.

Submitted by: Grande Yellowhead Public School Division



Do you have a good news story from your school jurisdiction that you would like to share with PSBAA member boards? Please let us know by emailing communications@public-schools.ab.ca.

WORD SEARCH: The Great Lakes Basin



- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| ABORIGINAL PEOPLE | COWS | INDUSTRY | LAKE SUPERIOR | POLLUTION | SWIMMING |
| AGRICULTURE | DETROIT | INVASIVE SPECIES | LIGHTHOUSES | POWER | TORONTO |
| AIRPORTS | ESCARPMENT | ISAAC BROCK | MAID OF THE MIST | SHIP WRECKS | TRANSPORTATION |
| BIOACCUMULATION | FERTILIZERS | LAKE ERIE | MOO | SIR ADAM BECK | URBAN CENTRES |
| BIOMAGNIFICATION | FISHING | LAKE HURON | NIAGARA FALLS | SKYWHEEL | WELLAND CANAL |
| BOATING | FOOD WEB | LAKE MICHIGAN | NIAGARA RIVER | ST CATHARINES | WETLANDS |
| BUFFALO | HIGHWAYS | LAKE ONTARIO | PESTICIDES | | |



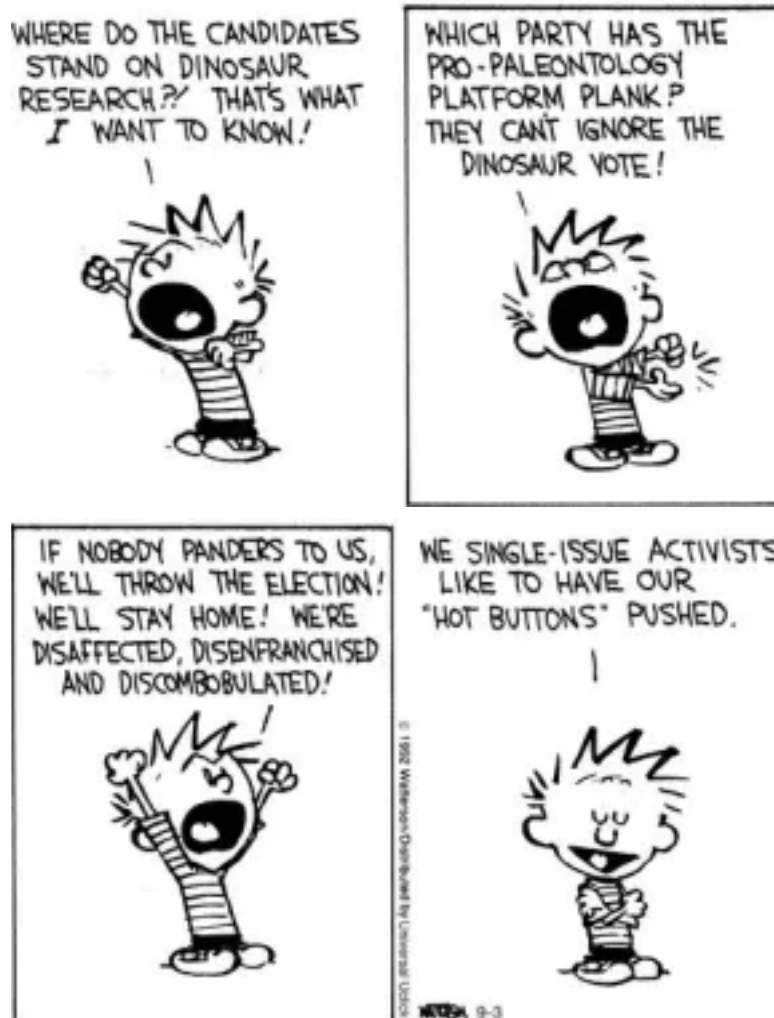
PSBAA WORD SEARCH

The first person who completes the puzzle with all words accurately identified and emails to Troy Tait at (executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca) will receive a PSBAA branded stainless steel water bottle, which is awarded exclusively to our puzzle prize winners! (Those who have won a prize in this contest during the past six months are not eligible.)

“DID YOU KNOW!”

Did you know that PSBAA has now uploaded our 2022 Annual Report to the Strategic Documents section of the website?

[Click here for our latest version now!](#)



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
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STORY IDEA? FEEDBACK?

We welcome your story ideas and suggestions!

CONTACT US

Please email communications@public-schools.ab.ca.

Address #105, 10470 176 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5S 1L3

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