



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

# THE ADVOCATE



## Welcome to the May 31, 2023 issue of *The Advocate*!

In this edition, you'll find two Board Chair messages, current information on the PSBAA upcoming events and speakers, a good news story, programs, courses and bursaries, grant opportunities and our regular features. Enjoy!



The next edition of *The Advocate* will be published on June 15, 2023.

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## ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

With the election now complete, our public school elections campaign comes to an end.

A few statistics from the PSBAA 14-week campaign include:

Seven Opinion Pieces – three published (Herald & Journal) - 15 Letters to the Editor - sent to 14 different news outlets across the province.

- Media pitch published by the Herald.
- Seven email campaign templates and seven network email templates.
- 216 social media posts and stories.
- 21 Private Facebook group posts.
- Seven blog posts.
- Door knocking Q&A
- 34 documents uploaded to the members private elections page.
- Seven Advocate updates.
- 2 leader responses
- Over double the standard industry engagement rate on social media!

As you can see, we have been busy advocating on your behalf. In fact, we have released elections information 391 times over the last 14 weeks, that's 27 touch points per week! This does not even count the number of shares or content released by members. Just think of how far our combined reach has pushed our message these last few months.

We wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who participated in sharing public school messaging. We hope our messaging has had an impact on party leaders and we look forward to working collaboratively with them in the coming years.

## BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE



The Board of Trustees of [Red Deer Public Schools](#) just approved the Three-Year Education Plan. Our plan reflects the vision, priorities and values of our community and our aspirations for all students to reach their full potential in learning and life.

The highest priority for the Division is the success of every student we welcome into our schools. “Your Children, Our Students, Everyone’s Future” speaks to our entire community having a vested interest in a strong and stable public school education system where families have choice in their education. We want our students to discover the possibilities.

This year’s Education Plan continues our focus on our priorities of Numeracy and Literacy, Equity, as well as Student Success and Completion.

Through our community engagement with students last school year, bullying was a theme that arose throughout. As a result, we will implement a comprehensive bullying intervention plan in the 2023/2024 school year. This will be done in consultation with students, staff and parents and include initiatives to prevent bullying, as well as develop an intervention process when bullying occurs.

We are excited to continue to offer more choices for students and families. We want students to get an excellent education, while having the opportunity to pursue their passions.

We look forward to another successful school year which meets the needs and aspirations of students, staff and the community.

Nicole Buchanan  
Board Chair



## BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

### Establishment of Central Alberta Collegiate Institute

[Wolf Creek Public Schools](#) are thrilled to share a significant update regarding the establishment of the [Central Alberta Collegiate Institute](#), a groundbreaking initiative that will revolutionize educational pathways in our region. We are proud to announce that a consortium of school divisions, including Wolf Creek Public Schools, Chinook's Edge, Red Deer Public, as well as Red Deer Catholic, and post-secondaries Olds College, and Red Deer Polytechnic have joined forces in this venture.

Our “proof of concept” proposal was approved by Alberta Education in February. Despite the tight timelines, we successfully submitted a comprehensive Business Plan in March. The plan encompasses a full five-year program timeline with indicators of success, delineates the roles and deliverables of each partner, and aligns closely with Alberta Education objectives and the overall business plan. It also covers aspects such as implementation, operations, instructors, content development, project support, and facilitation, along with a detailed five-year funding breakdown.

Notably, the submitted proposal outlines a budget of over 30 million dollars over the course of five years. This ambitious endeavor has the potential to positively impact more than 44,000 grade 7-12 students in central Alberta, providing them with enhanced educational opportunities and a more seamless transition to post-secondary education and future careers.

We express our sincere gratitude to all those involved in the development and submission of the Business Plan. Their dedication and hard work has been instrumental in reaching this stage. We eagerly anticipate the next steps in this journey and the transformative impact the Central Alberta Collegiate Institute will have on our students in Wolf Creek and students across central Alberta.

Luci Henry  
Board Chair



**Wolf Creek Public Schools**

*Creating Success For All Learners*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PSBAA's Spring General Assembly

- **June 1-3, 2023**

We are looking forward to welcoming you all to the Westin Downtown Calgary on June 1-3 for the Spring General Assembly (SGA). See our event page [here](#) for the full details of our event schedule this week!

## 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](#).

**Lethbridge School Division:**

**Associate Superintendent, Human Resources**

Email a PDF copy of your career ad to Troy Tait at: [executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca](mailto:executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### August 2023 PSBC Meeting in Medicine Hat!

- **August 9-11, 2023**

We will be heading to Medicine Hat August 9, 10 and 11 for our summer PSBC. Medicine Hat will kick off the event Wednesday evening at 5pm at the Medalta with a casual BBQ dinner and a tour of the historic museum.

Event registration will start the next day at 8.30 am at Medicine Hat High, transportation from the hotel will be provided at 8am. The professional learning day will include a discussion on trauma informed practice with Claire Peterson, followed by a tour of their state-of-the-art facilities with Boris Grisonich.

In the afternoon we will participate in a blanket exercise with David Restoule, the exercise will go through the history of the past 400 years of the northern part of North America and will be held at Medicine Hat College Co-op Wellness Commons. The building will be perfect for the blanket exercise as it was built for Indigenous teaching and learning, wellness, and health simulation. From there we will conclude our day with a stop at the Medicine Hat Saamis Tepee for a visit and tour of the attraction, which was originally constructed for the Calgary 1988 Winter Olympics. The Tepee measures 215 feet, equivalent to a 20-story building, and showcases large storyboards on each of the 10 masts depicting aspects of native culture and history in Alberta.

## GUEST SPEAKERS



### Claire Peterson (Thursday, August 10)

Claire is the Director of Psychology at Medicine Hat Public School Division. Claire has a Masters in Counseling Psychology (2008) and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (2002). Claire is a registered psychologist in Alberta and has been working with MHPSD since 2005. Prior to being a psychologist, she worked as a Family School Liaison Worker and Behaviour Interventionist within the school division, supporting at-risk students and their families to find success within the education system. Claire is currently the president of the Psychologist's Association of Alberta, where she has been an active board member for the past six years.



### Boris Grisonich (Thursday, August 10)

Boris started his teaching career at Medicine Hat High School in 1989 where he primarily taught Chemistry and coached basketball. He became the science department head in 2000, vice-principal in 2003, and finally Principal in 2006. Boris retired in that position in 2017 spending one year as the acting Associate Superintendent. Boris oversaw and advocated for the Medicine Hat school modernization plan which began in 2011 and after tremendous hours of planning, fundraising and constructing the renovation was completed in 2017. In fact, Boris, his staff, the board and the community raised/invested another \$7-\$9 million dollars to complete the project. The additional funds raised made the school renovation go from a dream to a state-of-the-art high school.



### David Restoule (Thursday, August 10)

David's spirit name is Eagle Who Sees Far and he comes from Dokis and Nippising First Nations in Ontario. David has been learning traditional ways since approximately 2007 and recently worked at Medicine Hat College for 4 years. David has been working on his own interventional trauma since 2006 and finds it healing to share his story which he finds helps others work on their healing as well. David is a proud father of two daughters and grandfather of two grandsons. David's hope is that healing and helping others heal will eventually help his children and grandchildren through this reconciliation.

[CLICK HERE for more information and to Register!](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PSBAA's Fall Conference and AGM

- **October 18-20, 2023**

The Fall Conference and Annual General Meeting will start Wednesday October 18 and run until Friday, October 20, 2023. Wednesday evening will include the Terry Jordan and Friends jazz band and our keynote speaker will be the Honourable, David Hancock, the 15th premier of Alberta.

Thursday's Professional Learning Day will be led by Glenn Tecker and we will once again attend the Mayfield Dinner Theatre for a rendition of Musicians Gone Wild: Rock The Canyon for dinner Thursday.

[CLICK HERE for more information or to Register!](#)

### November PSBC Meeting

- **November 17-18, 2023**

Our November PSBC will be held on Friday and Saturday this year to accommodate for necessary changes in the schedule. More details will be coming shortly on who will be in attendance for our Professional Learning sessions.

[CLICK HERE for more information or to Register!](#)



The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta is now offering T-Shirts with our logo on the sleeve and the slogan:

**I ❤️ PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Order yours now by downloading the order form from the [members section](#) (misc. documents) of our website and submitting your request to:

[communications@public-schools.ab.ca](mailto:communications@public-schools.ab.ca)

## PSBAA WEBINAR HOSTING SESSION



**FranklinCovey**

## GREAT SCHOOL BOARDS

By Marty Schafer, EdD

Friday, June 23 from 1:00-3:30 p.m.

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) welcomes FranklinCovey to host a webinar session on *Great School Boards: Building a High Trust Team*.

The webinar will focus on developing Great School Boards and how they can support Superintendents and Board Members to intentionally build a high-trust team culture. The FranklinCovey webinar differs from other programs for school boards and school district leadership training through the designing of effective implementation processes, evidence based and research-based content and provides the supports needed to meet district needs.

The professional learning session develops the following pillars within their solution based webinar:

- Clarity around Board and Superintendent roles.
- Shared vision around student success.
- Accountability aligned to Board and Superintendent evaluations.
- Community engagement aligned to leadership development.

The course will show how a cohesive team can substantially contribute to the following outcomes: increased Superintendent tenure, how to retrain/recruit quality School Board members and how to improve community confidence in the district.

The PSBAA is hosting this session exclusively to members for **\$250 per board**. There is no restriction on how many of your members and administration can attend, so take advantage of this opportunity for such a great price right from the comfort of your city or town today.

[CLICK HERE for more information or to register!](#)

## The Peace River School Division (PRSD) is excited to announce...

that they have been granted collegiate school status for a [Driver Training School for Class 1](#), Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT), and Air Brakes Q Endorsement program beginning in the fall of 2024.

This Driver Training School will be known as the North Peace Commercial Driving Academy, which represents the program's partnership between the Peace River School Division and Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP).

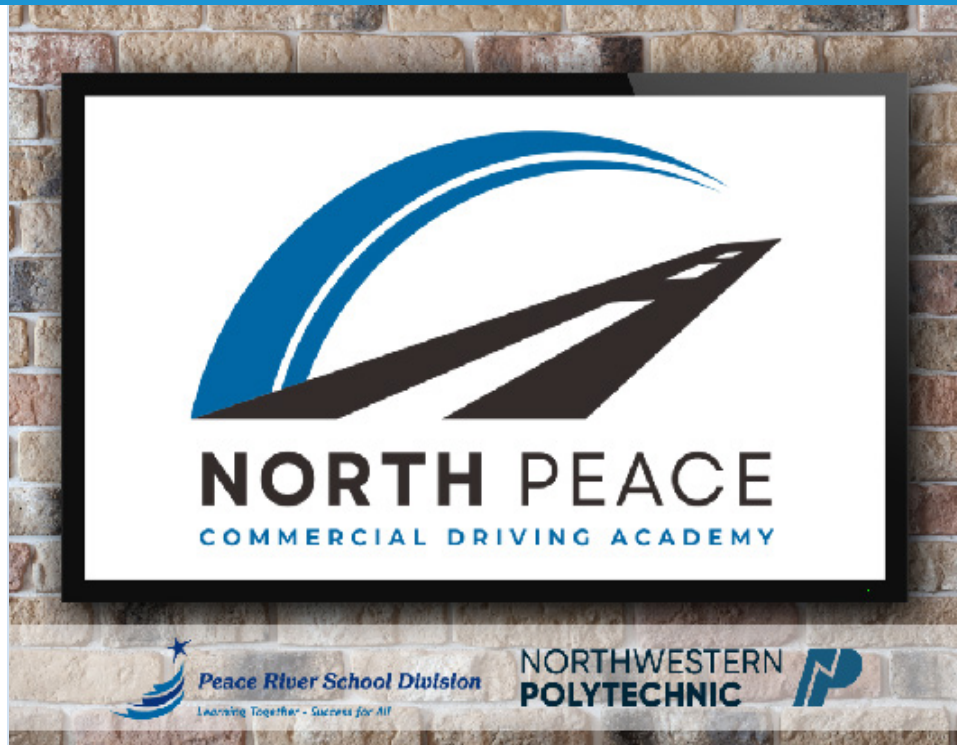
This project started in November of 2022, when the idea was presented to the PRSD Board of Trustees. The viability of offering a Class 1 Driving School was discussed and information was provided on how it could be structured, the costs it would take to facilitate, and the benefits it would have for the Division and local economy. During this time, it was also explained how this opportunity could positively impact high school completion rates and student enrollment within PRSD.

In March of 2023, PRSD hosted a town hall to gather information from local industry sectors who saw value in the potential Class 1 Driver Training School, and the response they received was overwhelmingly positive. Currently, access to the MELT program is limited, and many saw this as a possibility to fulfill the needs of businesses in local and surrounding communities.

The north relies heavily on the transportation of goods and having Class 1 Drivers is essential to the current market and local industry sectors. Offering this program will make it possible to create a direct path to employment and fill the need of skilled drivers in the area.

PRSD believes that students who complete the program will be equipped with the confidence, skill sets, and knowledge needed to work efficiently in many different industries throughout local and surrounding communities.

Now, with approval from Alberta Education, PRSD is eager to start the next phases of planning and preparing the program to launch in 2024.



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## PROGRAMS, COURSES AND BURSARIES



### Family Feud Teachers Edition

Do you watch Family Feud? Have you ever watched the show and found yourself shouting out the answers at the TV? Then here is your chance to be on the show!

Family Feud Canada are looking for educators from the same school to participate in their Family Feud Canada: Teachers' Week! As you may know, the host, Gerry Dee, is a former teacher and they are looking for teams of teachers wanting to school the competition and earn some cash for their school.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)

### JobSafe, A Free Safety Program for Junior and Senior High Schools

Looking for more ways to educate and empower youth on safety prior to them entering the workforce?

SafeGen has a great program, JobSafe, that provides young workers with accredited safety education prior to entering the workforce. The job safety course has no cost and is available to all publicly funded junior and senior high schools throughout Alberta. The program is a great fit to be used as an effective Career and Technologies Studies (CTS) resource for both teachers and students.

[CLICK HERE for more information or to register!](#)

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](mailto:communications@public-schools.ab.ca).

### Improving Student Outcomes and Teacher Efficacy

- Part 1: June 28, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Part 2: July 5, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Part 3: July 10, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Well-functioning teachers and leadership teams are essential to the continuous improvement of schools, especially in times of change and uncertainty.

This three-part live workshop teaches teachers how to implement a four-step collaborative protocol that fosters positive relationships, encourages responsible autonomy, and creates professionals who enthusiastically believe they can improve student outcomes through equitable learning cultures.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)



### The Impact of Social Media on Student Well-Being

Looking to understand how and why your students are using social media more than ever before? Want a better understanding of the impact on well-being that can be seen in the classroom? Then we have a course that might interest you.

Sonderly is offering a one and a half hour course from Dr. Alexandra Makos who provides a detailed history of social media, explains how the design of social media affects student well-being and gives concrete solutions to not only manage the use of social media in the classroom but also to use it in ways that will improve the well-being of students.

The course will help you better understand the role of social media in the lives of students and provide strategies to improve the impact of social media on well-being.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)

## Support for Indigenous Students Learning Program (SISLP)

The SISLP is a time-limited program available to Indigenous (First Nation, Métis and Inuit) students of limited financial resources, including Indigenous students living with disabilities. The program is a way to provide technology and technology supports to Indigenous learners to assist in improving their access and participation in education, training and lifelong learning.

[CLICK HERE for more information or to register!](#)



The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta is committed to Truth and Reconciliation, has prioritized increasing awareness of Canada's history with Indigenous people and is working towards reconciliation for the future.

At the February PSBC we provided members with complementary copies of the Calls to Action mini booklet as a quick reference tool on the issues at hand. If interested, we can provide additional copies to both members and non-members at \$8 per booklet. Copies can be ordered for principals and teachers as quick reference guides; several school boards have already done so!

**To Order Your Copies Please Contact**  
[communications@public-schools.ab.ca](mailto:communications@public-schools.ab.ca)

## RETIREMENT NOTICE

Do you know anyone who will be retiring from your School Division? PSBAA would be happy to make an announcement and send our well wishes to the retirees.

Please email information to:

[communications@public-schools.ab.ca](mailto:communications@public-schools.ab.ca)



## 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!](#)



## GRANTS



### Shell

Shell Canada provides social investment programs that support the communities around their operations as well as national programs that provide lasting benefits to Canadians across the country. Shell's social investment strategy focuses on two themes: Rising Indigenous Communities and Energy Transition and Access.

The program supports Education in both adult learning and K-12 programs such as STEM and cultural retention efforts. Funding may be used for one-time projects that benefit the community and are sustainable after the conclusion of the grant.

While the program is ongoing, the next review deadline is June 15, and the following review deadline is October 16, 2023.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)



### Fueling Futures

Enbridge's Fueling Futures grant is a community investment program that is guided by a core set of criteria. Enbridge considers donation and sponsorship opportunities in communities where Enbridge operates that meet the following criteria:

- Located primarily within a 20-kilometer (10-mile) radius of their pipeline right-of-way or near their operations.
- The request is of prime importance to the community.
- Beneficial to the greatest possible number of people.
- Significant to the long-term interests of the community.
- Supportive of one of their three core areas that they view as integral for a sustainable community: Safe Communities, Vibrant Communities, Sustainable Communities.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)



### Alberta Blue Cross - Build Together Grants

Alberta Blue Cross is offering five \$50,000 grants for their Built Together grant program that is designated for healthy living infrastructure projects across Alberta.

The Built Together grant program is designed to support infrastructure projects that you and your community are passionate about. Programs such as playgrounds, adult gyms, walking paths, outdoor rinks, skate parks and more are all eligible for the grants.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)

### Explore – Second Language Program

Explore is an intensive language immersion program that provides opportunities for English-speaking students to study French, and for French-speaking students to study English.

The program has two categories one for ages 13-15 and the other for 16, 17, or 18+. For 13- to 15-year-olds, three-week summer sessions are available. Some virtual Explore sessions are offered for those who are unable to participate in person. For participants 16 and older, Explore sessions are offered during the spring or summer, which last between 31 and 33 days.

The program contributes \$2,400 for each participant 13 to 15 years old and \$3,350 for each participant 16 years and older. This covers the costs of tuition, instructional materials, meals, and lodging.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)



# WORD SEARCH: Wolf Creek & Red Deer Pubic Schools



ALIX COLONY  
 ALIX-MAC  
 ANNIE L GAETZ  
 ASPEN HEIGHTS  
 BARRIE WILSON  
 BENTLEY  
 BENTLEY COLONY  
 BLUFFTON  
 BRICK LEARNING  
 CENTENNIAL  
 CENTRAL  
 CLIVE  
 CRESTOMERE  
 DON CAMPBELL  
 ECOLE MCTAVISH  
 EASTVIEW  
 ECKVILLE  
 ECKVILLE HIGH  
 ECOLE LACOMBE  
 ECOLE JAMES S MCCORMICK  
 ECOLE LACOMBE HIGH  
 ECOLE SECONDAIRE  
 FAIRVIEW  
 FERRYBANK  
 GATEWAY CHRISTIAN  
 GH DAWE  
 GLENDALE  
 GW SMITH  
 HUNTING HILLS  
 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
 IRON RIDGE

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 IRON RIDGE JUNIOR  
 JOSEPH WELSH  
 LACOMBE OUTREACH  
 LEEDALE  
 LINDSAY THURBER  
 COMPREHENSIVE  
 MATTIE MCCULLOUGH  
 MECCA GLEN  
 MOUNTVIEW  
 NORMANDEAU  
 ORIOLE PARK

PINES ALTERNATIVE  
 PLEASANT VALLEY  
 PONOKA  
 PONOKA SECONDARY  
 RIMBEY  
 RIMBEY HIGH  
 TERRACE RIDGE  
 VISTA GRANDE  
 WEST COUNTRY  
 WEST PARK ELEMENTARY  
 WESTPARK MIDDLE  
 WOLF CREEK

## 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](mailto:executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca)) will receive a PSBAA branded stainless steel water bottle (above), 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.)

**“WELL SAID!”**

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and the world better than you found it.”

~ MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

### STORY IDEA? FEEDBACK?

We welcome your story ideas and suggestions!

### CONTACT US

Please email [communications@public-schools.ab.ca](mailto:communications@public-schools.ab.ca).

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

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