



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

# THE ADVOCATE



## Welcome to the September 30, 2023 issue of *The Advocate*!

Saturday, September 30, 2023 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada.

Promoting and advancing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in relation to education is a key PSBAA priority, so this edition of *The Advocate* includes additional, Indigenous-focused content to mark this day of reflection.

Inside, you'll find a special message from the PSBAA President, information on an Indigenous scholarship, the Indigenous Canada course, an update from Grande Prairie and Prairie Land Public School Divisions on some exciting initiatives in their jurisdiction, PSBAA upcoming events, FranklinCovey webinar, programs, courses and bursaries, grant opportunities and our regular features. Enjoy!



The next edition of *The Advocate* will be published on October 16, 2023.

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# MESSAGE FROM PSBAA PRESIDENT ON THE NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

SEPTEMBER 30

Dear Members and Supporters,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to bring your attention to the upcoming **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**, a significant date in our nation's calendar. On Saturday, September 30, 2023, Canada will observe this day as a statutory holiday, dedicated to remembering and honoring the lost children and survivors of residential schools, along with their families and communities.

September 30th also holds the distinction of being Orange Shirt Day, symbolizing unity and remembrance. We encourage you to wear an orange shirt or the color orange on this day to pay tribute to the children who endured residential schools, to remember those who did not make it, and to demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation with the motto: "**Every Child Matters.**"

At the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA), we firmly believe that reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples is a crucial mission. However, for reconciliation to take root, we must first confront and acknowledge the truth. That is why we emphasize the importance of understanding the profound impact of residential schools on Indigenous Peoples.

Our commitment to this cause is exemplified by the PSBAA Board of Directors and staff, who have pledged to enhance their understanding through the Indigenous Canada 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) offered by the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta, accessible via Coursera. This course delves

into the diverse histories and contemporary perspectives of Indigenous peoples living in Canada. You can access more details about the course on the following page (3).

The PSBAA has placed truth and reconciliation at the forefront of our strategic priorities. We are dedicated to nurturing positive relationships, built upon mutual respect and goodwill, with all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities in Alberta.

Furthermore, we wholeheartedly endorse the implementation of all **94 Calls to Action** outlined by the federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). In line with this commitment, we stand by the Alberta government's dedication to infuse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives and experiences throughout the K-12 education system in Alberta.

To learn more about our unwavering dedication to truth and reconciliation, and to explore our award recognizing individuals and organizations who promote and advance one or more of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in Relation to Education, **[please visit this link.](#)**

The path to reconciliation may be long and challenging, but we are immensely grateful for the opportunity to embark on this transformative journey. Together, we can foster understanding, empathy, and healing.

Thank you for your continued support.

DENNIS MACNEIL, PRESIDENT





## SCHOLARSHIP FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

Have you heard about the Alberta Blue Cross® Indigenous scholarship program? This year, there are a total of nine \$1,500 awards available—six for mature students and three for students who've recently completed high school and are entering their first year of post-secondary study. Our scholarships are based on community involvement, personal goals and financial need. As a community leader and connector, we wanted to share the details of this scholarship with you and your community directly.

For more information, visit the Alberta Blue Cross website or email: [scholarships.indigenousstudents@ab.bluecross.ca](mailto:scholarships.indigenousstudents@ab.bluecross.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 perspectives of Indigenous Peoples living in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, 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!](#)

## BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

# KinderPAL

Play & Learn

Full School Day Learning Experience

## Online Registration Open!

(For children born in 2018)



[www.gppsd.ab.ca/kinderpal](http://www.gppsd.ab.ca/kinderpal)



Grande Prairie  
Public School Division

Our mission in the [Grande Prairie Public School Division](#) is to be a learning community in which every student succeeds. Part of our learning involves the Board and all staff seeking to continuously improve the educational experience of students and their families. It was our focus on continuous improvement that resulted in the development of the Grande Prairie Public School Division's KinderPAL program, which was new in the 2021-2022 school year.

KinderPAL is an optional early learning program that provides full day learning for Kindergarten students. KinderPAL students experience regular kindergarten classes for half of their school day while the other half is focused on structured play and learning. KinderPAL programming supports students' development as they strengthen their foundational knowledge and skills through their play with other students. A certificated teacher provides the program design and curriculum-specific instruction and certified Early Learning Instructors deliver the early learning KinderPAL programming.

We know that students' early years create the foundation upon which their future growth and achievement will occur and are proud that our students and parents LOVE the KinderPAL program! Following the introduction of the program at select schools for the first two years, it has expanded to all 13 GPPSD schools that offer kindergarten programming and do not have a conflict with an existing program or do not have space available.

KinderPAL provides professional planning and instruction and is play-based, engaging students to explore their curiosity, work with others, develop their learner skills, and build positive attitudes about school as they Play And Learn (PAL).

To learn more about KinderPAL in GPPSD:

The KinderPAL story, as told by parents and teachers: <https://youtu.be/1oovGNc0MMU>

KinderPAL's home on the web: <https://www.gppsd.ab.ca/KinderPAL/>

Joan Nellis, Board Chair

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).

## BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A Prairie Land priority has always ensured that school communities are given the opportunity to provide critical input into the education of our students. In January of 2020, the Prairie Land Board visited each of our school communities in an effort to share a possible deficit budget and the subsequent cuts that may be needed to balance the financial deficit. The feedback received was perceptive and the appreciation displayed by the communities proved the importance of the consultative processes.



As the world is now beginning to move beyond the online meeting process that has been so prevalent as of late, the Board of Trustees and the division, are planning to visit each of our school communities.

There will be a focus on specific community topics as well as divisional areas, in addition to a set amount of time devoted to the education plan and assurance

model. The board will once again be busy in January and February with these meetings, however, the information received will be invaluable and helps direct the division in a positive and progressive manner.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, the Board of Trustees were interested in connecting with municipal partners in an effort to organize a collective that would have the ability and interest in advocating on similar topics of interest. It is a common known fact that enhanced educational opportunities in rural and remote-rural Alberta involves bringing together a variety of partners and the efforts needed for this to happen at times can be difficult. With that, the Board has made the decision to meet in each of our school communities while extending an invite to each municipal partner directly linked to that community. Having learned from a fellow board (while attending a PSBAA event), the Prairie Land Board of Trustees will include local council members, mayors, or county executives in these school community tours. This practice speaks to the tenet of educating a school community to better understand the needs of the Division, which ultimately is what is in the best interest of our students and their communities.



Holli Smith  
Board Chair

## 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 details!](#)



## 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 starts with the Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole Dinner and Lecture, and we are honoured to have the Minister of Education, the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides bring greetings and the Honourable, David Hancock, the 15th premier of Alberta as our keynote speaker.

Thursday's Professional Learning Day will be led by Glenn Tecker of Tecker International, and we will once again attend the Mayfield Dinner Theatre for a rendition of Musicians Gone Wild: Rock The Canyon for dinner Thursday. On Friday, we will hold our Annual General Meeting beginning at 9 a.m.

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

### November PSBC Meeting

- November 17-18, 2023

Our November PSBC is being held on Friday and Saturday to reduce the time between our meeting and the ASBA FGM. More details about the Professional learning and who will be presenting will be coming shortly.

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

## 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)

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

PSBAA will post career opportunity ads on the website and in *The Advocate* for members free of charge.

Check out the following current career opportunities on the [PSBAA website](#).

**Sturgeon Public Schools:  
Associate Superintendent, Corporate Services**

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

## PSBAA WEBINAR HOSTING SESSION



### LEADER IN ME

By Lynn Kosinski

*Thursday, November 9 from 1-3 p.m.*

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) welcomes FranklinCovey to host a webinar session on *Leader in Me: The 4 Disciplines of Execution for Educators*.

This webinar will focus on the book '*The 4 Disciplines of Execution for Educators*' this book takes the goal achievement method laid out in the best-selling *The 4 Disciplines of Execution* and optimizes it for the educator and administrator. It's a sure and simple formula for executing your most important goals—for making a real difference in the lives of your students. Tested, refined, and proven by literally thousands of schools and districts around the world, the 4 Disciplines enable classroom teachers, school principals, district superintendents, and trustees to achieve their highest priorities.

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.

## OCTOBER 5 IS WORLD TEACHERS' DAY.

You and your favourite Alberta teacher can win amazing prizes!

To celebrate, send us a 60-second video sharing how an Alberta teacher inspired you. You'll be entered to win one of 25 \$100 Visa gift cards.

Your Alberta teacher will be entered to win one of three vouchers for either airfare or the Apple Store valued at \$3,000!

[CLICK HERE for more Information!](#)



The Alberta  
Teachers' Association



Generously sponsored by Morgex Insurance.

A division of Johnson Inc.

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

## PROGRAMS, COURSES AND BURSARIES

### 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!](#)



Help raise awareness about youth mental health and well-being by bringing Kids Help Phone's nationally funded Counsellor in the Classroom program to your school!

The Counsellor in the Classroom program promotes the discussion of mental health and well-being among young people. The program is available from coast to coast for students in Grades 6 through 12 across Canada in both English and French. This is an opportunity for educators of Grade 4-12 students to promote help-seeking and provide students with more information about mental health and the support available to them.

The program is divided into two parts, firstly the classroom is provided activities which are led by the teacher and the second allows students the opportunity to learn and engage with a Kids Help Phone professional counsellor. In this virtual session, the counsellor will share information about Kids Help Phone's services and facilitate a discussion about why it can be difficult to reach out for help sometimes, as well as answer any questions that arise

[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 effects 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!](#)

### 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 details!](#)



## GRANTS



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 October 15, 2023.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)



## PSBAA SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Do you know someone who has made a special contribution to Public Education this year? Advanced business initiatives in your school division? Promoted or advanced Truth and Reconciliation? Or maybe has just been an all around great mentor or leader?

Then nominate your fellow colleague through the PSBAA website under [member resources](#) in the award nomination forms section.

**The Deadline for nominations is Friday, March 31, 2024.**



## 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!](#)



# WORD SEARCH

## Grande Prairie and Prairie Land Public School Division

A P V Q T L R I N Y S V A U M M H A S R N P D A Z X S J J X  
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**Alexander Forbes**  
**Aspen Grove**  
**Crystal Park**  
**Derek Taylor**  
**I.V. Macklin**  
**Isabel Campbell**  
**Riverstone**

**Roy Bickell**  
**Avondale**  
**Hillside**  
**Maude Clifford**  
**Swanavon**  
**École Montrose**  
**Parkside Montessori**

**Charles Spencer**  
**Grande Prairie**  
**Al Amal Academy**  
**Altario**  
**Berry Creek**  
**Consort**  
**Delia**

**Hope Christian**  
**J.C. Charyk**  
**Morrin**  
**Prairie Land**  
**Veteran**  
**Youngstown**  
**Prairie Land**



### PSBAA PUZZLE

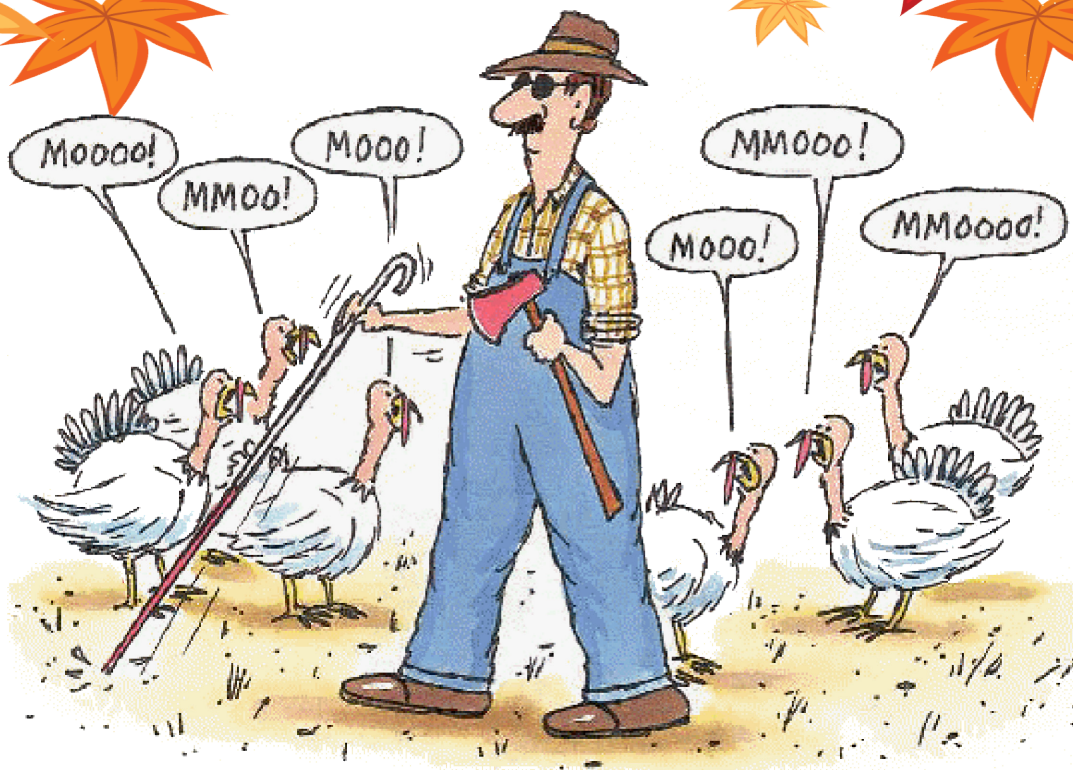
The first person who emails Troy Tait ([executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca](mailto:executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca)) their completed puzzle with all words accurately identified will receive a PSBAA branded stainless steel water bottle, which is awarded exclusively to our puzzle prize winners!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



**“WELL SAID!”**

**“The most important single ingredient in any successful educational system is . . . good teachers.”**

- DAVID SARNOFF



**Happy Thanksgiving**



**PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'**  
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

**CONTACT US**

**Story idea? Feedback?**

We welcome your story ideas and suggestions!  
Please email [communications@public-schools.ab.ca](mailto:communications@public-schools.ab.ca).

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