

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

# THE ADVOCATE



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

In this edition, you'll find a message from PSBAA President Dennis MacNeil, current information on the PSBAA upcoming FranklinCovey webinar, events and speakers, a good news story from Northland School Division, programs, courses and bursaries, grant opportunities and our regular features. Enjoy!



The next edition of *The Advocate* will be published on October 31, 2023.

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# 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.

[CLICK HERE](#)

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

## PRESIDENTS' CORNER

### Looking ahead to a great Fall Conference and AGM

In just a few days, we will gather in Edmonton for the annual PSBAA Fall Conference and AGM.

It has been a year of change, with a spring provincial election and a new Education Minister. We welcomed two new member boards to the Association—Pembina Hills and Peace River—and held wonderful meetings with other potential members. We have taken advantage of numerous opportunities to meet new people and build relationships and collaboration. On reflection, I am truly grateful and thankful.

Earlier this year, our Association approved its new five-year strategic plan. This was our first strategic, forward-thinking plan that was inspired and informed by your voice as members and public school board trustees.

The voice of all public school boards is so important. The more we collaborate together as a single, united voice, the stronger we are. We are the one Association that advocates for and speaks on behalf of public schools, public school education and all public school boards in Alberta. This is your Association, and the strategic plan reflects your priorities for us over the next five years: advocacy; Indigenous relations; member services; membership growth and professional learning.

We want the PSBAA to be a positive and productive voice for change – for the betterment of all K-12 students in Alberta. Advocacy is the cornerstone of our Association, and public education truly is the foundation of a strong Alberta. The provincial election is behind us, but not our need to continue sharing the message about the foundational nature of public school education. In particular, we need to continue communicating that “schools of choice” need to get in line behind schools of necessity, like public schools.

We will continue to do more to improve Indigenous relations, including advancing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on education in Alberta, increase member services and benefits, build relationships and attract new members.

We will also continue to offer you professional learning opportunities that you simply can't get anywhere else. At this year's Fall Conference, we will have exceptional learning from Glenn Tecker, who is widely acknowledged as one of the world's foremost experts on leadership, strategy and governance.

At the heart of everything we do is creating optimal conditions for student education and academic success. Events like our Fall Conference and AGM help us do just that. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Edmonton, and spending time with you and your board colleagues in great conversation and learning. See you there!

Dennis MacNeil, PSBAA President





## 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 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 Alberta School Boards Association's Fall General Meeting. More details will be coming shortly on who will be in attendance for our Professional Learning sessions.

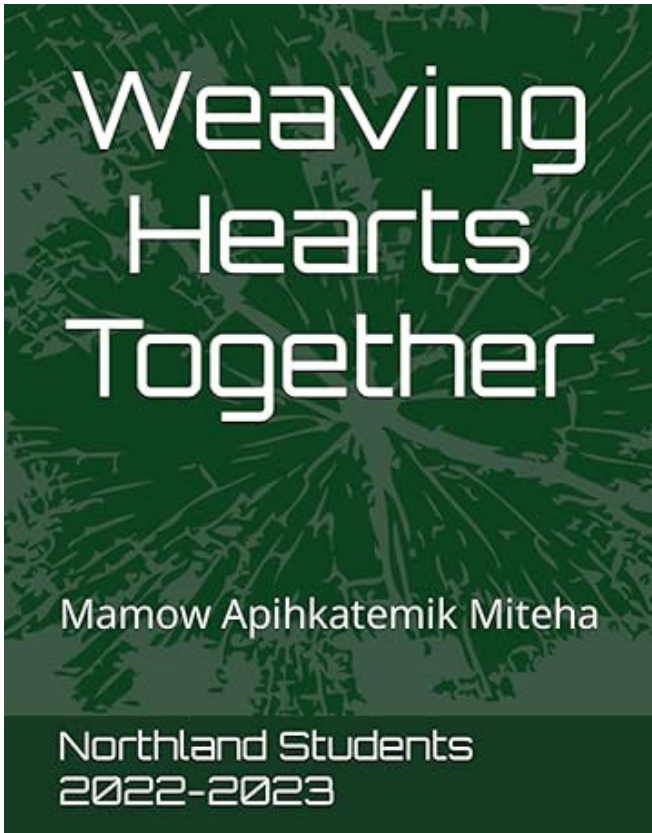
**[CLICK HERE for more information or to Register!](#)**

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

## A third book written by Northland students is now available on Amazon



A third book written by [Northland School Division](#) students is now available on Amazon! The published book was made possible with funding from our friends at Cenovus Energy. The book titled Weaving Hearts Together can be best described as a labour of love and connection.

Similar to Finding Fire Within by Reconnecting with the Land, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members opened their hearts to the students by sharing stories. After listening to the Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members, students wrote and illustrated pictures to bring the stories to life. This connected people, deepened cultural roots, and helped to weave their hearts together.

“[The Board](#) would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of students, staff, Elders, and community members involved with this project,” said Cathy Wanyandie, Board Chair. “Publishing these stories is an excellent way for students to learn and celebrate their language, culture, and identity from local Elders and community members. The Board would also like to thank Cenovus for continuing to support Northland School Division.”

“This project is an example of how Northland School Division is achieving excellence in learning and weaving Indigenous knowledge, language, and culture in the cur-

riculum,” said [Shelley Willier Superintendent of Schools/CEO](#). “Being able to see Northland students and staff interacting with Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members is exciting and very beneficial to the student learning experience. I also want to thank Cenovus for supporting this project.”

Lost in the Fog is one story featured in the book. Nathan Cardinal, a student from Mistassiniy School, wrote about a hunting trip his grandfather shared. While it was a beautiful fall morning, the fog created challenges for travelling in a canoe across the lake: “They ventured ahead as there was nothing to stop them from going to the bush to hunt and get what they needed from the land. This would provide for the family at home and others in the community as this was a practice back then; to give what you had to others that needed the help not asking or wanting anything in return” (Nathan Cardinal, 2023).

### [CLICK HERE to purchase a copy of Weaving Hearts Together](#)

Other published books written and illustrated by Northland School Division students:

- [Finding Fire Within: by Reconnecting with the Land](#)
- [Kayas Ayamikamik Acimowina: Old Stories of the Mission](#)

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).



## NO STONE LEFT ALONE

### INSPIRING YOUTH TO REMEMBER AND HONOUR OUR VETERANS

What is the No Stone Left Alone program?

As we all know, educating youth about the significance of our nation's history and instilling a sense of appreciation for those who have served is of critical importance. At No Stone Left Alone, our mission is clear and deeply meaningful: we strive to educate and inspire youth to place poppies on the headstones of veterans, symbolizing their gratitude and remembrance. With each poppy laid, we not only honor the memory of those who selflessly served our country, but we also pass down the values of respect, sacrifice, and gratitude to the next generation.

We firmly believe that engaging students in these activities not only imparts historical knowledge, but also fosters a profound connection to our nation's past and helps youth to better understand their place in its future. Our organization also offers educational resources and supports designed to be integrated seamlessly into your curriculum. These resources are thoughtfully curated to cater to different age groups and learning levels, ensuring that students gain a deeper understanding of Canada's military history and the sacrifices made by its brave men and women.

**[CLICK HERE to watch this short video to learn more about NSLA](#)**

If you are interested in learning more about our programs or discussing potential participation, please email: [Michellekb@nostoneleftalone.ca](mailto:Michellekb@nostoneleftalone.ca), or to explore our website at [nostoneleftalone.ca](http://nostoneleftalone.ca).

## PSBAA CONSULTANT



### October Spotlight: Joni Avram

Joni helps leaders, educators, and advocates improve internal and external communication and team dynamics.

Offering customized approaches, she applies behavioural science methods with marketing to help organizations improve their relevance, credibility, and impact.

A lawyer by training, Joni has deep roots in marketing and public relations and holds an MSc. in Behavioural Science from the London School of Economics.

She established Cause & Effect Marketing in 2006 to support people who wanted to be a force for good.

You can contact Joni at 403-617-5496 or by email at [joni@causeeffect.ca](mailto:joni@causeeffect.ca).

## 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 details!](#)**

# CRAFTING A VISION FOR AN INCLUSIVE LIFE

Inclusion  
Alberta

FMS LEARNING SERIES 2023/2024



**SATURDAY**  
4 November, 2023  
10am - 3pm

INGLEWOOD COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION HALL  
1740 24 Avenue Southeast, Calgary,

Join us at the Inclusion Alberta workshop, **“Crafting a Vision for an Inclusive Life”**, as we explore the important questions families have when planning for and with their loved ones with intellectual disabilities. Through our extensive experience, we have discovered that creating a compelling vision for a meaningful life is an incredibly potent tool in establishing a truly inclusive and fulfilling life for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Inclusion Alberta’s Darrell Cook Family Managed Supports Resource Centre invites you to join them for a workshop on visioning Saturday, November 4 from 10am-3pm.

[\*\*REGISTER ONLINE HERE\*\*](#)

or contact Kate at 403-539-5869 or

[\*\*khughson@inclusionalberta.org\*\*](mailto:khughson@inclusionalberta.org)

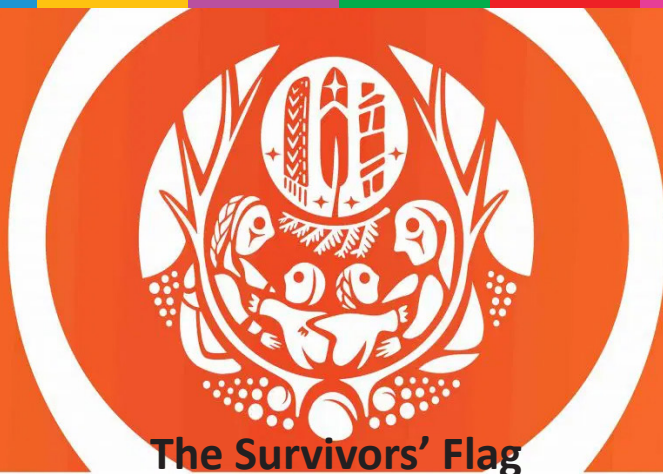


## INDIGENOUS CANADA ONLINE COURSE

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!\*\*](#)



**The Survivors' Flag**

The Survivors' Flag is an expression of remembrance, meant to honour residential school Survivors and all the lives and communities impacted by the residential school system in Canada. Each element depicted on the flag was carefully selected by Survivors from across Canada, who were consulted in the flag's creation.

[\*\*Click here for more information!\*\*](#)

## 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 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?

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!\*\*](#)



## Brighter Days: An Indigenous Wellness Program

Kids Help Phone's offers virtual councillor health services which are available 24/7 across Canada. This means that they are there for kids, teens and young adults from coast to coast when they need help or someone to talk to.

One of the Kids Help Phone services is the Brighter Days Program, which gently introduces Indigenous youth (ages 6 – 29) to their services and provides

them with an opportunity to engage virtually with a Kids Help Phone Indigenous Wellness Specialist in a culturally safe and fun conversation. After the introductory session, participating groups have the option of hosting additional sessions focused on wellness topics such as managing anxiety, self-care and more.

You can help by connecting Indigenous youth to well-being supports today through the link below and we look forward to having the Kids Help Phone speak at our Spring General Assembly this June.

**[CLICK HERE to learn more about the program and how it works!](#)**

## GRANTS



## APPLY NOW FOR THE TEAM CANADA OLYMPIC DAY GRANT

**10 GRANTS, \$5,000 EACH!**

In celebration of Olympic Day, recognized annually by the IOC on June 23, Team Canada is opening applications for the Team Canada Olympic Day Grant for Canadian publicly funded schools with the goal of empowering students to play and stay in sport.

Sport brings communities together, teaches us leadership and fair play, and fuels our health and well-being. But often there are barriers that mean that young Canadians either “can’t” or “won’t” participate in sport. We believe we play a role in ensuring access and a quality experience in sport at all levels.

The Team Canada Olympic Day Grant provides funding to increase access to sport in schools while also giving athletes the opportunity to inspire students through their stories.

### HOW IT WORKS

A total of 10 grants of \$5,000 are available for Canadian schools across the country to help students play and stay in sport. Successful schools will also receive a 90-minute Team Canada athlete speaking engagement to inspire students to participate in sport and develop the skills to thrive and succeed in their daily lives.

All applications must be submitted by no later than **November 10, 2023, by 23:59 EST.**

**[LEARN MORE ON HOW TO APPLY NOW!](#)**





## Program bolsters Canadian school music programs

MusiCounts, a charity associated with The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and The JUNO Awards, aims to make music education inclusive, sustainable, and accessible for youth across Canada.

Through the Band Aid Program, MusiCounts provides under-resourced schools with grants of up to \$15,000 worth of musical instruments, equipment, and resources.

Funds may be used to support any approach to music education and purchase any kind of musical instruments.

Schools can apply for support for an existing music program, or schools with no music program may apply to start a new music program.

The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. EST, December 5, 2023.

Visit the MusiCounts website at [MusiCounts: Band Aid Program](#) to download the program guidelines and access the online application as well as other helpful resources.



## 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!](#)



## Strengthening the Relationship Between Students and Nature

Since 1992, Tree Canada has greened more than 720 schoolyards across the country. With the support of our sponsors, we've turned barren schoolyards into living outdoor classrooms, created arboretums for hands-on learning and helped reconnect students with the natural world.

Each year, Tree Canada helps schools, community groups, Indigenous communities and municipalities across Canada looking to plant trees or develop green infrastructure through creative projects.

This includes supporting planting projects as well as developing and implementing urban forest best management practices and innovative urban design solutions.

Our grants provide support for community greening, innovation and stewardship initiatives. Grant recipients receive funding and technical support to help start, upgrade, or achieve their greening goals.

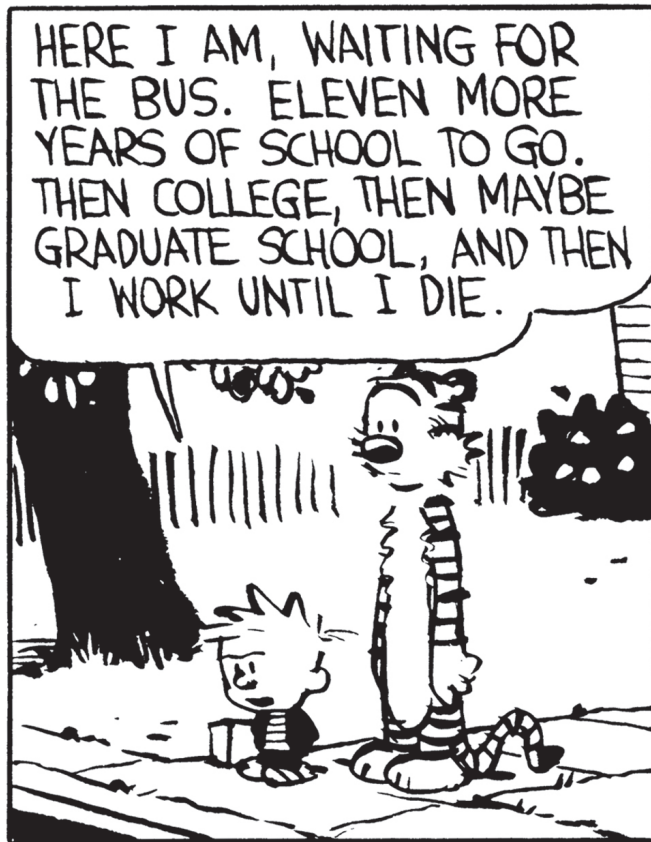
Eligible projects receive \$3,500 in funding to cover the cost of purchasing and planting trees and shrubs, site preparation, tree maintenance, planting materials and developing education materials.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)

**“WELL SAID!”**

**“EDUCATION IS NOT PREPARATION FOR LIFE;  
EDUCATION IS LIFE ITSELF.”**

~ JOHN DEWEY



**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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