



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

# THE ADVOCATE



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

In this edition, you'll find information on the NEW PSBAA Board of Directors, two Board Chair messages, current information on the PSBAA upcoming events and guest speakers, Special Recognition Award winners, programs, courses and bursaries, grant opportunities and our regular features. Enjoy!

**LEST WE FORGET...**



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

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## BOARD CHAIR MESSAGES



In [Northern Lights Public Schools](#), the recent modernization of [Bonnyville Centralized High School](#) included the demolition of an existing community fine arts space. In recognition of that, the new design for the renovated school space specifically addressed using the former gym as a community theatre/fine arts space. With careful planning and design enhancements, the modernized BCHS would offer a collaborative space that would allow users to access the school's cosmetology lab for their productions. Our goal was to find a community partner who would commit to using the space in order to have our renovation approved. Modernization is now completed, and we are pleased to be working with the [Clayton Bellamy Foundation for the Arts](#).

The Clayton Bellamy Foundation for the Arts is an award-winning non-profit organization that believes participation in the arts is an essential element in a child's development and education. Through their plan to retrofit a state of the art 340-seat theatre in the former gym space, now known as the [Strathcona Performing Arts Centre](#), the Foundation plans to provide a venue for students and the greater community to participate in dance, music, and drama. Through the Foundation's collaboration with [Grant MacEwan University](#), students will also have the opportunity to experience the arts programs offered there through a Student Exchange Program. It will provide after school arts-based programs, a space for local groups to practice and perform, and will bring high-caliber musical performances to the community.

NLPS is proud of this partnership and is excited for the opportunity for our students to learn, create, and grow.



At the [Peace River School Division](#), one of the things we pride ourselves in doing well is developing partnerships with community organizations, local businesses, and neighbouring school boards.

Currently, the PRSD is working towards getting the [North Peace Commercial Driving Academy](#) up and running in time for the Spring of 2024. This Class 1 driving school is a partnership between the PRSD and [Northwestern Polytechnic](#). Once operational, our driving academy will not only provide the local economy with much-needed Class 1 drivers, but it will also give any of our interested students or recent graduates who are at least 18 years old an immediate path into a promising career.

The PRSD has also partnered with NWP and [Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools](#) to begin talking about what the future of K-12 education can look like in the town of Fairview. The need to get ahead of aging infrastructure and the desire to provide Fairview students with the best-possible education, inclusive of many CTS options, has spurred the need for this three-way partnership. These three partners met recently to take part in a successful two-day value scoping session where the goal was to develop a shared vision for the future of K-12 education in Fairview.

One last example of a successful partnership is the one that exists between the PRSD, NWP, and [Clear Hills County](#). Together, we have funded and arranged to have a CTS Instructor from the college teach classes at three of our more remote schools. Without the support of Clear Hills County and NWP, these CTS classes simply could not happen.

In our rural remote communities, the PRSD acknowledges that partnerships are one of the ways to achieve the greatest impact and level of success, not only for us as a division, but for our students as well.



## PSBAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2023 Fall Conference and Annual General Meeting saw a change to our Board of Directors. After serving two years with us as First Director, Tasha Oatway-McLay from the Sturgeon School Division announced she is stepping down and we welcomed Patrick Grisonich from the Medicine Hat Public School Division who will now be joining us in that role. We also said good-bye to Lorraine Stewart from the Parkland School Division after serving on our board for two years and welcomed in Timothy O'Hara from the Fort McMurray Public School Division as our new Second Director.

Lastly, after serving as Director for Edmonton Public School Board for two years, Marsha Nelson bids us farewell and we welcome Jan Sawyer as the new Director for Edmonton Public School Board. We cannot thank our departing members enough for all their hard work and devotion to their roles, their passion and efforts will not be forgotten. Our new members come to us with an array of knowledge and have a long-standing history in the Public School System. We are looking forward to hearing their thoughts and ideas during their term with PSBAA. Please join us in welcoming them to the board!



## EVENTS

### November 2023 PSBC meeting

- **November 17-18, 2023**

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in west Edmonton for the PSBC on November 17 and 18, 2023.

Our November PSBC is being held on Friday and Saturday to reduce the time between our meeting and the ASBA FGM. Registration kicks off at 8 a.m. on November 17 and the day will start with a presentation on the **Assurance Framework** from Jeff Willan and Kindy Joseph with Alberta Government. Followed by a discussion on **Child and Youth well-being**, and we will hear from Kindy Joseph, ADM of Program and System Support in Education, Cynthia Dunnigan from Child and Family Services, and Coreen Everington from the Addiction and Mental Health Division on the topic.

During the afternoon, we will hear from Superintendent Chad Erickson of Red Deer Public Schools and Superintendent Tim De Ruyck of Wolf Creek Public Schools. Executive Director Jackie Taylor from Central Alberta Collegiate Institute will also join the conversation.

We will then shift focus to discuss **How to Engage Stakeholders when Making Difficult Decisions** and hear from Eric Cameron, Aimee Henning, and Shauna Boyce from the Parkland School Division on this matter.

Our special guest speaker joining us for dinner is the former trustee of the Calgary Board of Education, Richard Hehr. (see featured bio) We have much to discuss, and we look forward to hearing from all who attend.

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

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PRESENTATIONS

Check out the member portion of the PSBAA website to view guest speaker presentations from previous events!

[CLICK HERE to login!](#)

## NOVEMBER PSBC DINNER GUEST SPEAKER FEATURE



### Richard Hehr (Friday, November 17)

Richard Hehr has spent over 58 years in Alberta's Public education system. It commenced with his entry into grade one at St. Louis School in Medicine Hat in 1949. It concluded with his retirement as a trustee from the Calgary Public School District in 2021.

In his career he has taught everything from high school social studies up to elementary. He has served as a vice principal and a principal. He spent two years as a university associate working with student teachers and was a four term president of Calgary Public Local 38. He retired in 2007 after eleven years as Executive Assistant for Calgary Public Teachers ATA.

Richard firmly believes that the public education system is the foundation stone of Canadian democracy. He is concerned that over time the Alberta system has been eroded and debased. Alberta's commitment to equality of opportunity and a level playing field for all students is a vestige of a bygone era.

At 79 years young Richard remains passionate about public education and will expand on what Alberta should do to return to a public education system which works in the best short and long term interests of all Albertans.

[CLICK HERE for more information on Guest Speakers](#)

## EVENTS

### February 2024 PSBC

- February 8-9, 2024

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

### April 2024 PSBC

- April 11-12, 2024

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

### 2024 Spring General Assembly

- May 30 - June 1, 2024

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

# 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!](#)

## 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.**



## 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!](#)



## 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!](#)

**Whenever you need to talk,  
we're open.**

 Text 686868 (youth) or 741741 (adults)  
 KidsHelpPhone.ca/Rise  
 Call 1-800-668-6868



Kids Help Phone 

## Kids Help Phone - RiseUp

RiseUp powered by Kids Help Phone is a national, 24/7, bilingual e-mental health support service for multi-cultural youth. The service is free and available from coast to coast to coast. It's a program built in collaboration with multi-cultural community partners.

Multi-cultural youth across Canada can access free wellness support 24/7 by texting RISE to 686868 to connect with trained, volunteer crisis responder.

For more information about RiseUp powered by Kids Help Phone, you can access their general inquiry form on their website.

[CLICK HERE for more information!](#)

## GRANTS



**TEAM CANADA  
OLYMPIC DAY GRANT**

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO **PLAY AND STAY** IN SPORT

 OLYMPIC DAY

## 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.



## 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!](#)



## 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

## Northern Lights and Peace River Public School Divisions



M B O T W F W E O W J O J X Y N N E P S G R A W C M U F V L  
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Ardmore  
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 Aurora  
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 Cold Lake  
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 Ecole Plamondon  
 Glendon  
 HE Bourgoin  
 Iron River

JA Williams  
 Kikino  
 Nelson Heights  
 North Star  
 Northern Lights  
 Vera M Welsh  
 Wandering River  
 Crossroads  
 Fishing Lake  
 Journeys  
 Lac La Biche

Dixonville  
 Ecole Springfield  
 EE Oliver  
 Fairview  
 Grimshaw  
 Hines Creek  
 Lloyd Garrison  
 Manning  
 Menno Simons  
 Nampa  
 Paul Rowe

Peace Home  
 Peace River  
 Red Earth  
 TA Norris  
 Worsley  
 Bear Canyon  
 Breaking Point  
 Cleardale



### 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!”**

**“NOT EVERYONE HAS EQUAL ABILITIES,  
BUT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION.”**

~ JOHN F. KENNEDY



**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).

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

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