

SSBL Newsletter

Volume 16 • June 2016

President's Message



Another year is quickly coming to a close. We know that even though the spring has been beyond beautiful, everyone is looking forward to the rest and relaxation that the summer months can bring.

As I reflect on this past year, the SSBL continues in its focus to serve administrators in our province. We were able to actualize an opportunity for professional development through the Fall Summit: Closing the Gap – Improving First Nation Outcomes. I was able to represent the province at CAP meetings, bringing the voice of Saskatchewan to the national table. As well, through CAP, administrators in our province have been invited to be part of a Pan-Canadian survey striving to compile data around the conditions and issues within Canadian schools, through the perspectives of school administrators. This is a two-part survey that builds on the information gathered from The Future of the Principalship, a nation-wide study compiled three years ago. The data from this current survey will be compiled over the next couple months, and the SSBL hopes to see stronger participation

from Saskatchewan, so that our voice is better represented. Lastly, the SSBL has laid the ground work for hosting CAP 2017 in May 2017. It has truly been a very busy year.

I would be remiss if I did not put in a plug for our upcoming CAP 2017 conference. A committed group of volunteers have formed the CAP 2017 organizing committee, and I welcome other administrators in our province to be part of our committee. The theme is Growing Together: Cultivating Change. The conference will be held in downtown Saskatoon, utilizing The Sheraton and The Bessborough as our venues. We have already secured keynote speakers Anthony Muhammad and George Couros. An active website is available for viewing at www.capconference2017.cdnprincipals.org. Please check it out. As more details become available they will be viewable on this site. Our hope is to start registrations in the fall. Please consider this conference as your professional development opportunity for this year, and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

It continues to be my honour and privilege to be the president of the SSBL, and I look forward to continuing in this capacity for the next school year.

As a professional growth network of the STF, I strongly recommend other administrators to consider being part of our executive. Our next meeting and AGM will be September 23 and 24. Please feel free to call or email if you should have any questions regarding our professional growth network, CAP, or the upcoming CAP conference. I look forward to hearing from you.

Carol Sarich
Principal, St. Luke School
Greater Saskatoon Catholic
School Division
SSBL President
Co-Chair CAP 2017

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*Effective leadership in every school –
a driving force in education*



SASKATCHEWAN
SCHOOL BASED
LEADERS

Year-End Musings

By Jerome Chomos

Co-Editor of "A Guide to Saskatchewan School Law"

It has been almost twenty years since I began to research and write about legal issues related to education. In the mid-1990's, many issues of interest to educational administrators were linked to important legal cases, providing abundant material for consideration. That remains the same today, but both the issues and case law have changed in significant ways.

Probably the dominant legal issue relevant to educators of the 1990's was that of negligence. A number of serious injuries to students involving accidents in school settings led to high-profile convictions for negligence. Although a few cases involved areas such as science and industrial arts labs, the most important were injuries suffered during physical education classes in gymnasiums and on playgrounds. Typically, convictions arose from lack of supervision, inadequate training, inadequate preparation of students, or faulty equipment. Seven figure settlements in favour of plaintiffs quickly focused the attention of school boards on developing policies to improve risk management. While accidents still do occur, the number of court cases involving this type of negligence has substantially diminished.

Issues and cases involving student discipline were fairly common during the same period, as were cases involving student rights, especially those of search and seizure by school authorities. Court rulings in cases of discipline generally reflected changes in societal norms; the use of physical force, especially excessive force led to convictions, even though Section 43 of the Criminal Code remained, and still remains in force. Once again school boards followed case law, and in a number of cases preceded case law by introducing policies ending corporal punishment. It is now not very common to find cases involving physical discipline of students.

Appeals to the Supreme Court of Canada led to decisions establishing the parameters for search and seizure involving school personnel. Most of these decisions gave school authorities permission, and some latitude in searching students. In most cases judges used a common law principle to rule in favour of school authorities; school boards, principals and teachers had the duty to maintain safety, discipline and good order in schools. Nonetheless, the decisions established the requirement there be sufficient grounds for searches and that they be done in a "reasonable" manner.

In the past ten years, the issue dominating legal cases involving schools – bullying, both physical bullying and bullying using the internet and social media. The tragic and widely reported deaths of Rethaeh Parsons and Amanda Todd were consequential in many ways. The death of Rethaeh Parsons ultimately led to the conviction of two students. The province of Nova Scotia enacted anti-bullying legislation (which earlier this year was over-turned in a court challenge) and

other provinces have followed suit. School boards across Canada have enacted policies in attempts to prevent bullying. Some have been effective to a degree, but the complications inherent in cyber-bullying make these efforts works in progress; legal cases involving bullying continue to be common.

Throughout the past twenty years, some issues leading to legal action do remain. Perhaps the most significant of these are those involving inappropriate relationships between teachers and students, probably now made more problematic by social media.

And what does the future hold? Not sure, except that it remains incumbent on Educational Administrators to know the law, and to know how to apply it.

Jerome Chomos is a retired educator and co-editor of A Guide to Saskatchewan School Law. He is currently teaching courses for the International Sommelier Guild, and continues to support the SSBL by submitting articles for the SSBL newsletter.



Using the Fourth R Resources to Reduce Youth Risk Behaviours and Support Adolescent Mental Health

By Suzanne Zwarych, National Fourth R Trainer

Over five thousand schools in Canada use the Fourth R Resource to support their Health Education. The great news is that this evidence-based resource and training is now available free of charge for a limited time period to teachers in Saskatchewan!

We are able to offer the online training and a downloadable version of the complete lesson plan resource to you free of charge through a grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada. The only thing we ask in return is that the teachers provide us with feedback.

The Fourth R is a comprehensive prevention program based on healthy relationships, safe choices and connected youth. There are three different resources for teachers: Grade 7, Grade 8 and Grade 9 program. A shorter more intense 14 session program that counsellors may want to use is called the Healthy Relationship Plus Program and it too is available through this process.

The grades 7, 8 and 9 Fourth R programs each consist of four units addressing the Health Education Outcomes for the following:

- Personal Safety & Injury Prevention
- Substance Use, Addictions, and Related Behaviours
- Human Development & Sexual Health
- Healthy Eating

The program includes detailed lesson plans with learning strategies, activities, and rubrics, and uses a variety of innovative teaching strategies to engage youth and develop critical thinking skills.

The Healthy Relationships Plus Program (HRPP), which is a Fourth R small groups program with additional emphasis on mental health, suicide prevention and addiction prevention. The 14 one-hour sessions were designed to be taught by community professionals or educators in small group settings to target the prevention of violence through the promotion of positive, healthy relationships.

In the past, the only way to receive these great resources was to attend a full day training session and purchase the manual for \$75 - \$125. Now interested teachers are able to receive the resource

and on-line training (approximately two hours) for FREE, as long as they provide the Fourth R with feedback about the training and the resource.

The process for participating in this opportunity include:

- Send an email to Canada4thR@gmail.com with your request for either the Grade 7, Grade 8 or Grade 9 Fourth R program, or HRPP (further information will be requested)
- We will send you an email explaining special log-in information for the online training and how to access the resource document
- Complete the on-line training (Approximately two hours)
- Implement the program during the 2016-2017 school year
- Provide feedback about the training and resource (three 10-15 minute online surveys)

Feel free to pass on this information to interested colleagues. We look forward to receiving your email.

Suzanne Zwarych,
National Fourth R Trainer
Canada4thR@gmail.com
306-280-0944



52nd Annual Saskatchewan Principals' Short Course July 4-7th, 2016

Ethical. Instructional. Distributed. Transformational.

The major goal of the Short Course is to provide an intensive opportunity for participants to deepen their knowledge of theory, practice, and reflection, contributing to their skills as teachers and school leaders. The activities of the course will enable participants to:

- examine the role of the principal through the lens of instructional leadership;
- extend knowledge regarding the practices of establishing a vision, influencing school culture, and stimulating the learning environment, while at the same time managing, modeling, and monitoring activities within the school;
- learn about new developments and initiatives in education;
- share experiences, insights and concerns with other practitioners, and;
- gather as a cohort to develop a support network.



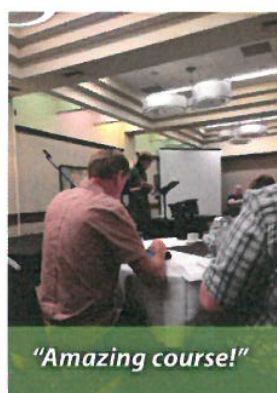
Registration Fee:

Registration Fee: **\$550.00**

Registration Fee and Four Nights' Accommodation at the Travelodge Hotel: **\$1,070.00**

Fees Include: Breakfasts, lunches, and an evening social

Registration form available at www.usask.ca/education/selu



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Education
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Presented by: The Department of Educational Administration, University of Saskatchewan
Conducted by: Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit (SELU)

35TH ANNUAL



**GROWING TOGETHER,
CULTIVATING CHANGE.**

**SASKATOON, SK
MAY 23-26**

www.capconference2017.cdnprincipals.org

SSBL Executive

SSBL President

Carol Sarich
Principal, St.Luke School
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
Co-Chair Cap 2017
casarich@gscs.sk.ca

SSBL Secretary

Jackie Peat
Regina Catholic School Division
j.peat@rcsd.ca

SSBL Treasurer

Dean Lucyk
Regina Catholic School Division
d.lucyk@rcsd.ca

Members at Large

Garth Anderson
Nevin Halyk
Wanda Spooner
Guy Werbicki

CAP Executive 2015-2016

President – K. J. White (PEI)
Past-President – Tina Estabrooks (NB)
President Elect – Maxine Geller (Man)
Western VP – Carol Sarich (Sask)
Central VP – Terry Young (Nun)
Eastern VP – Kyran Dwyer

We would like to take a moment to thank the CAP executive for their leadership during this past year. We say a fond farewell and thank you to Tina Estabrooks, who will be leaving her placement at the CAP executive table, as past-president. Next year, Maxine Geller will be in the role of president, and Kyran Dwyer will be taking on the role of President-Elect.

