

DON'T FORGET ABOUT BOARD BALLOTS

Make sure your board has a say in the election of a new association president and the fate of several proposed by-law amendments this convention; ensure that the "Authorization to Receive Board Ballots" form that was distributed to all secretary-treasurers on February 2 is completed and returned to our office prior to convention. While the outcome of most elections and resolution votes is determined on the basis of the majority support of individual trustees, the election of president and voting on by-laws is determined on the basis of a weighted, board ballot vote. Trustees can sign for their own ballots and voting cards on-site, but we can release board ballots only to a trustee who has been authorized by the board to receive them. So, make sure that the board designates someone to pick up those important ballots, and make sure we know who that is!

TWO OF THE BEST

For the past 11 years, [The Learning Partnership's](#) Outstanding Principal Award has recognized the contributions of principals in publicly funded schools. It honours principals from across Canada who demonstrate innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, and who have done something truly remarkable in public education. This year, two Manitoba principals were among the [40 honoured](#): Peggy Hobson, Henry Izatt Middle School, Pembina Trails S.D., and Ken Hoglund, École Stonewall Centennial School, Interlake S.D. Congratulations to both!



DID YOU KNOW?

Manitoba has introduced a new [Certificate in School Leadership](#) to replace the current Level 1 and 2 administrator certificates. The renewed qualifications for the Certificate in School Leadership recognize the current education and professional preparation essential to supporting effective leadership in our schools, which are reflected in five domains of knowledge.

To obtain the certificate, educators will be required to complete a post-baccalaureate or Master's degree program; the post-baccalaureate program will include a field-led component.

Meeting the qualifications under the pre-existing administrator certificates will continue to be an available option until September 2017.

WELL REPRESENTED

Manitoba school boards and trustees are well-represented on a [recently announced](#) provincial commission to examine accessibility to quality early learning and child care. Among the twelve commissioners are Manitoba School Boards Association Executive Director Carolyn Duhamel, and Gail Watson, a past president of the association and until last October, a trustee in Pembina Trails S.D. In announcing the commission, Family Services Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross said that it would look at Manitoba's early learning and child-care system to offer advice and options that will help the Manitoba government further develop high-quality, affordable child care.



IS YOURS ONE OF MANITOBA'S GREENEST SCHOOLS?

The Manitoba chapter of the Canada Green Building Council is inviting all K to 12 schools to submit an application to be recognized as one of the five [Greenest Schools in Manitoba](#). Schools can highlight programs that improve the school environment and contribute to healthier indoor and outdoor spaces for learning and playing. Judging criteria are efficient use of resources and reduced environmental impact, enhanced health and learning among students, teachers and staff, and emphasis on sustainability and resource-conservation education. The five winners will receive \$500, and will be automatically entered into a Canada-wide competition where they can receive \$2,000 in prize money.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS?

Did you know that February 20 is World Day of Social Justice, or that the United Nations has proclaimed February 21 International Mother Language Day? When do we mark World Water Day, or the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought? How about Canada's National Day of Mourning, the WHO's World No Tobacco Day, or the World Day Against Child Labour? Find all of these and much, much more on the Toronto District School Board's [Days of Significance](#) Calendar.

