## CONVENTION 2015

Just a reminder that the deadline for receipt of convention workshop proposals is this Friday, December 5. In recent years, the opportunity for trustees and school boards to learn from each other's experiences through these division-led sessions has been one of the most popular aspects of our convention. The call for proposals was distributed in the November 5 divisional email; it is also available on-line.

**BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**

A memo detailing guest room booking procedures has been distributed to all boards via divisional email. By following the procedures outlined in this memo and adhering to the identified timelines, each board is guaranteed a minimum of six guest rooms and two parking passes at the convention hotel, the Delta Winnipeg. And remember—if you need more than your allotted six rooms, don't hesitate to have your name added to the waiting list! Based on past years' experience, virtually all delegates can be accommodated at the Delta, but only if they utilize the waiting list.

## NOMINATIONS

Nominations for provincial executive office will be accepted until the call to order at our convention on the morning of Friday, March 20. Nominations may be submitted in writing at any time to the association office, and can be posted to our website as they are received. Nominations received to date are:

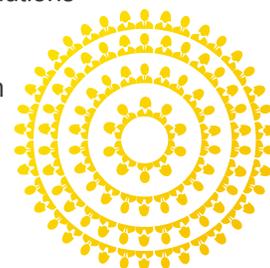**President:** Ken Cameron, Rolling River S.D.

**Vice-President (<6000 students):** Robyn Wiebe, Western S.D.

**Director, Region 4:** Murray Skeavington, Flin Flon S.D.

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

A necessary precursor to convention are regional meetings, which take place next month. For those new to the association, regional meetings bring together trustees from proximate divisions for an opportunity to hear about their organization's ongoing work and priorities. These meetings also provide a chance for boards to seek regional support for proposed convention resolutions, and to discuss matters of local concern or interest.

In early January, a regional meeting package will be distributed to all school boards. This package will include a summary of the association's budget and financial position, reports from key committees, and resolutions proposed by both boards and the provincial executive. The deadline for receipt of resolutions at the association office is Friday, December 12; they should be directed to Executive Assistant Andrea Kehler.

Of particular note this year will be two by-law amendments being put forward by your provincial executive. One of these deals with a proposed change to the method whereby member fees are calculated, and the other proposes some changes to executive election processes, specifically nomination deadlines and voting methods. All votes relating to by-laws are determined by weighted, board ballots, with the weighting dependent upon the student population of a division, so you'll want to make sure your discuss these important changes at your own board table prior to convention.

## OUR LATEST DIVISION DISPATCH

If you've ever had questions about the correct use of committee of the whole, or wondered how it varies from in-camera, our latest Division Dispatch may have the answers you're seeking. Committee of the Whole: In Camera or In Public? provides a definition of the two terms, and provides some guidelines about when and why a board might want to employ one or the other of these formats. It also offers some tips for ensuring that boards that use committee of the whole extensively don't sacrifice transparency for efficiency. The video is eight minutes long, or, if you prefer, you can read the text version.

## EXECUTIVE BY-ELECTIONS

Congratulations to Dianne Zuk from Pembina Trails S.D., and Theresa Bergson, from Seine River S.D., the two newest members of the Manitoba School Boards Association provincial executive. Dianne was acclaimed Vice-President (boards with 6000+) students, and Theresa was declared elected after two rounds of balloting. Both new members assumed their seats at our December 1 executive meeting.