

NURTURING MINDS, HEARTS AND BODIES

The Manitoba School Boards Association 52nd Annual Convention gets underway in one month, so now's a good time to review that mental to-do list that helps ensure a positive convention experience! You can find all convention-related documents and information on our dedicated [convention page](#).



- Resolutions to be considered on Friday, March 18, will be distributed via email this week. The resolutions package will be posted online at the same time.
- Profiles of those individuals running for provincial executive office will be posted next week. This information will be updated as new profiles are received. A list of all [candidates](#) nominated to date has also been posted; nominations may be made at any time, up to the final call on the morning of Friday, March 18.
- Many boards have already submitted their completed authorization to receive board ballots, which was distributed the week of February 1. We encourage the outstanding boards to do so as soon as possible. Board ballots are needed to vote on any by-law related matters and in the presidential election, but without the proper authorization, we can't release them.
- The deadline for receipt of convention registrations isn't until March 4, but early submission has two benefits. First, workshop spots are filled on a first come, first served basis, and some sessions have limited capacity. Secondly, banquet seating assignments are made on the same basis, with the best seats going to those who register earliest. So, don't delay!
- Over the years, the support of Manitoba school boards and trustees for our annual raffle has enabled us to donate tens of thousands of dollars to child-focused charities. Whether it's your generous donations or the purchase of tickets, that support is making a difference in the lives of kids across Manitoba. This year, the recipient of funds raised will once again be the [Manitoba Riding for the Disabled Association](#). Learn how you can [support the raffle](#), or find out more about this worthwhile organization.



CSBA CONGRESS UPDATE

With less than five months until Manitoba trustees welcome their colleagues from across Canada to Winnipeg for the Canadian School Boards Association Congress 2016 and the National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education, planning has moved into high gear! Most of the [keynote speakers](#) are in place, and the February 29 deadline for the submission of [workshop proposals](#) is fast approaching. Online registration is slated to open at the end of March, once these final program elements are in place.



If your board has already submitted a workshop proposal, please email [Heather Demetrioff](#), Director of Education and Communication Services, to confirm that it was received. Due to a technical issue (which has since been resolved), some proposals submitted online may not have been received.

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND NATURAL LAWS

The upcoming MERN Indigenous Education Research Seminar will take the form of a bear pit session on [Indigenous Rights and Natural Laws](#). The session will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 26, at the Manitoba Teachers' Society building at 191 Harcourt Street in Winnipeg. The first two hours will consist of presentations, followed by a lunch and roundtable discussions. Presenters will include Elder Harry Bone (Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba), Betty Lynxleg (Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre), Sharon Parenteau (Manitoba Métis Federation), Brian Rice (Faculty of Education, University of Winnipeg) and Jacqueline Romanow (Indigenous Studies, University of Winnipeg). To register, email your name and organizational affiliation to admin@mern.ca.

CANCELLATION FYI

Please note that the trustee education session listed in our trustee datebook as taking place on Friday, April 29 in Brandon, has been cancelled. This decision was made in light of the increased demands that have already been placed on board members' time this year, including a fall round of regional meetings and the upcoming [CSBA Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education](#) in Winnipeg in July. But don't forget—you can always access our [online learning opportunities](#), at no cost and at your convenience.

