

## IT'S TIME TO REGISTER!

The registration package for the Manitoba School Boards Association 2016 Annual Convention, [Nurturing Minds, Hearts and Bodies](#), was distributed in today's divisional email. The program is available online, but registrations must be submitted through school division offices. Our exciting lineup of keynote speakers includes Randy Fransoo from the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, Sheldon Kennedy, Lead Director at the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre and Co-Founder of Respect Group Inc., and Christianne Boudreau, who will share her first-hand account of the impact of radicalization and extremism, and the power of community resilience and mental health support. We are also offering a total of 13 workshops in three time slots, many of which feature local initiatives that Manitoba school boards are eager to share with their colleagues.



While schedules will not allow us to hold our traditional board chairs' meeting with the Minister of Education and Advanced Learning this year, we are pleased to inform you that the leaders of all Manitoba political parties have been invited to participate in a moderated, education-focussed debate on the morning of Friday, March 18.



Education partners have been invited to submit one question for this debate, so we are anticipating a well-rounded and lively discussion. We are in the final stages of confirming all the details, which we'll share with you as soon as possible.

## GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

Our convention also serves as the association's AGM, which means business is a critical component of the program. Two key pieces of that business are elections and resolutions, and in order to participate fully in either of these, school boards will need their board ballots. The authorization to sign for board ballots form was distributed early this week to board chairs and secretary-treasurers. In order to release board ballots at the convention, we need to have a completed copy of this form in hand. Board ballots, which are weighted on the basis of student



enrollment, are used for the election of the president and voting on proposed by-laws or by-law amendments. So, don't delay in collecting the necessary names and signatures, and returning the form to the association office.

And speaking of elections, all [nominations](#) received to date are posted on the [convention page](#) of our website as they are received. Information provided by each candidate will be posted prior to the convention. The final call for nominations for all positions is at the call to order on the morning of Friday, March 18. The resolutions package will be finalized in the next two weeks; it will be distributed to boards and posted to the website at that time.

## AND IN OTHER CONVENTION NEWS . . .

The deadline for receipt of nominations for the [Premier Award for School Board Innovation](#) has been extended until Monday, February 8, 2016. This award, which recognizes educational innovations and improvements advanced or directed by school boards to support student achievement, comes with bragging rights and a \$3000 cheque, courtesy of Xerox Canada. And, we are hoping that we can once again count on the generosity of boards and trustees to make our annual charity raffle a continued success. Over the years, ticket sales have generated tens of thousands of dollars for local, child-focussed organizations. For the second year, [Manitoba Riding for the Disabled Association Inc.](#) will be the recipient of funds raised. For details about donating, check out the [memo](#) that was distributed in November.



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RURAL EDUCATION

The 21st National Conference on Rural Education will be held in Saskatoon from March 20 to 22. This year's event, the theme of which is [Imagine the Possibilities](#), will invite participants to reflect on what is possible in overcoming the obstacles of distance, size and economic uncertainty for schools in rural and remote settings. The program features keynote and breakout presentations designed to stimulate thinking and facilitate important conversations about the possibilities for ensuring rural schools are great places for learning. For program and other relevant information, check out the [website](#).

Twenty First National Congress on Rural Education in Canada



**Imagine**  
THE POSSIBILITIES

March 20 - 22, 2016 • TCU Place  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan