

SAVE THE DATE!

With school trustee elections on October 24 this year, we needed to make some adjustments to the timing of fall regional meetings. After discussing this matter at its January 8 meeting, the executive determined that, in 2018, regional meetings would be held in conjunction with our usual post-election orientation session for newly-elected trustees. Additional trustee education offerings and a session for board chairs will also be incorporated into a comprehensive, two-day program, which will be held at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg on November 29 and 30, 2018. Additional details will be shared as they are confirmed, but mark your calendars now!



JANUARY WEBINAR

Developing strategic directions and monitoring progress are essential roles of school boards. Strategic directions are created through sound planning processes, which are fundamental to good governance. Our upcoming half-hour webinar, [Leading the Strategic Planning Process](#), will provide an overview of a strategic planning process that engages stakeholders in developing a shared vision, mission, and goals. The webinar will outline one board's journey in creating a strategic plan, a journey that started with trustees leading focused conversations with parents, community members, students and staff. The ultimate goal was a strategic plan that provided overall direction to the division, with a focus on student learning and wellbeing.



This newest offering in our superintendent series of webinars will be presented by Donna Davidson, Superintendent of Mountain View S.D. on January 30. Resources for the webinar will be posted one week before the event. You can download them by visiting our [website](#) and following the links. To register, contact [Janis Arnold](#), Board Development Consultant. The registration deadline is 10:00 January 30.

INNOVATIONS IN RURAL EDUCATION

The 23rd [National Congress on Rural Education in Canada](#) will be held from March 25 to 27 in Saskatoon. The central theme for the 2018 event is "Innovations in Rural Education." Rapidly changing demographics pose a challenge for school divisions, who need to use innovative strategies to improve outcomes for



students and learning communities. School divisions of all sizes, demographics, and locations are responding to that challenge by pushing the boundaries of innovation and 21st century learning. Delegates to the Congress will engage in open conversations, collaborate in meaningful discussions, and make connections at the provincial and national levels. [Online registration](#) is now open.

LAST CALL

This Friday, January 26, is the deadline for receipt of nominations for all association [awards and recognition programs](#). It is also the last date when guest rooms booked within our block for our March convention can be cancelled without penalty. Rooms cancelled after January 26 will incur a penalty of one night's room charge. If you were unsuccessful in booking all the rooms required within our block, now's the time to [try again](#). Any rooms cancelled by Friday will be returned to our block, where they will be available for rebooking. After January 26, all remaining rooms in our block will be released, and our preferred rate will no longer be available.



DID YOU KNOW . . .

That Manitoba Municipal Relations has prepared and distributed a resource document [Zoning for Cannabis: A Guide for Manitoba Municipalities](#)? This document was prepared "to assist Manitoba municipalities with proposed cannabis facilities to amend their existing zoning bylaw to regulate the siting and operation of cannabis production and retail within their communities." Although the resource was prepared specifically for municipalities, it will be of interest to school boards, given that it does make reference to zoning considerations in the proximity of schools. As the document's preface acknowledges, "all levels of government are working together in order for the legalization of cannabis to be successful." School boards are one of the levels of government that needs to be informed and involved when decisions are being made that impact our kids and communities, so check out the [guide](#).



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