

## WHISTLEBLOWER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

School divisions and districts have been included under the provisions of *The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower) Act* (PIDA) since December 1, 2018, which means boards are required to ensure they have appropriate policies and procedures in place. The [Manitoba Ombudsman](#) has advised us that a good source of information for divisions working in this regard are the [procedures](#) and [form](#) that can be found as downloads on the website of the [Manitoba Civil Service Commission](#). The Ombudsman's office worked with the Civil Service Commission to develop these documents, which were posted in December. Additional information on the PIDA section of the Civil Service Commission site, including FAQs and the PIDA responsibilities of various categories of individuals (employees, supervisors, and designated officers) may also be helpful.



The Manitoba Ombudsman may be able to assist divisions with questions about the content of their policies, or possibly review and provide feedback on the content of policies and procedures. Additionally, an updated version the PIDA session presented at our fall trustee education event will be included among our convention workshop offerings.

## THE LEADERSHIP MANDATE

You asked, we answered! On February 6 (Victoria Inn, Brandon) and February 8 (Norwood Hotel, Winnipeg), we will be holding a one-day workshop on **The Leadership Mandate**. This session is designed to assist school board chairs and vice-chairs, both new and experienced, fulfill this important and sometimes challenging role. As such, registration for this session will be limited to those currently serving as chair or vice-chair, or their designates.

Topics to be covered include building the team, focusing the work, managing relationships, growing governing capacity, and representing the school division. The day will conclude with an opportunity for participants to learn from each other, by sharing their own experiences, challenges and successes. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m., and the day will wrap up by 4:00 p.m. Program details and the registration form were distributed in today's divisional email.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Have you participated in our brief (as in only five questions brief) [survey](#) about the scheduling and format of future association meetings? If not, please do so, and help us plan events that best meet the needs of the majority of school trustees. The survey is asking



for feedback on the format and length of possible future fall events such as the one held in November, as well as a possible change in the scheduling of our convention from March to April.

And while you're in a survey state of mind, and if you haven't already done so, please take a few more minutes to complete our [member profile survey](#). Responses to this survey are anonymous, but collectively, they paint a picture of school trustees in Manitoba that is critically important to our advocacy efforts.

## CONVENTION UPDATE AND PENDING DEADLINES



The program and registration forms for Convention 2019 will be distributed by the end of January, but until then, here a few updates and reminders.

- Our opening keynote speaker on Thursday morning is [Mike Lipkin](#), founder and president of Envirionics/Lipkin. Thursday's program will be rounded out by three banks of concurrent workshops, and a concluding student panel. Our traditional board chairs meeting with the Minister (yet to be confirmed) is tentatively scheduled for 4:30 p.m.
- The deadline for receipt of all nominations for association [awards and recognition](#) (student citizenship, Presidents' Council, and trustee long service) is February 6, 2019.
- Friday, February 15 is the final date that guest rooms booked within our block at The Delta Hotel can be cancelled without penalty. Any cancellations after that date will incur a penalty of one night's room charge.
- This year's recipient of raffle proceeds will be [The Sunshine Fund](#) of the Manitoba Camping Association. Boards can support this cause by making a [raffle donation](#).

For regular convention updates, visit our [convention page](#).



Leadership, Service and Advocacy:  
*Local Voices, Local Choices*

Convention 2019, March 14 - 15, Delta Winnipeg, 350 St. Mary Avenue

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