

ATTENDING CSBA CONGRESS 2015?

If you'll be attending this year's CSBA Congress in Saskatoon and you'd be willing to lend a hand to promote the 2016 event in Winnipeg, let us know! We may be looking for volunteers to help us distribute some goodies at lunch on the Saturday of Congress, when the Manitoba crew has an opportunity to invite people to Winnipeg next July, or at other times throughout the event. Interested? Send an email to [Heather Demetrioфф](#), and she'll add you to the list!



HOPING TO HEAR FROM YOU

Two requests for feedback were recently distributed to school boards. If you have already responded, thank you! If not, it's not too late to share your thoughts on these important topics.

On April 9, we distributed a discussion paper examining the association's advocacy role. This paper was developed as a follow-up to ideas introduced by then-president Floyd Martens at our 2015 regional meetings and convention. We invited boards to forward feedback to [Carolyn Duhamel](#). The executive is in the process of developing a plan for more in-depth consultation with member boards on the subject of advocacy; watch for details in the coming weeks!

An April 21 memo to all boards requested feedback related to legislation currently under consideration. [Bill 7, The Public Schools Amendment Act \(Protecting Child Care Space in Schools\)](#), lays out

conditions for protecting child care space within a school, or moving a child care centre within or between schools. The legislation anticipates regulations governing the minimum notice period required before a child care centre can be moved, and we are looking

for board views on that topic in particular. Response can be sent to [Carolyn Duhamel](#) or [Heather Demetrioфф](#).

IS YOUR BOARD HIGH-FUNCTIONING?

Our latest Division Dispatch takes the form of a mini-course on a topic that should be of interest to all school trustees—the high functioning board! The first segment of this five-part series is a [10-question quiz](#), designed to help you assess your board's current status. The remaining

four segments—[decision-making](#), [goals and teamwork](#), [spokesperson](#), and [board dynamics](#)—provide a deeper exploration of issues raised by way of the quiz. Check it out, and while you're online, why not take a look at our other [Division Dispatches](#) on topics such as practical procedures, and some of the services your association offers.

CYBER-SAFETY

As adults, when we hear the term “cyber-safety,” we tend to think about keeping kids safe online, but cyber-safety is not just for kids! In 2009, MERLIN blocked more than 300,000 cyber-attacks each week. In 2013, that number had climbed to a staggering 2,000,000 blocked attacks per week, and it has undoubtedly continued to grow since then. The Manitoba School Boards Association risk management department is currently working to have cyber-breach coverage included in the schools insurance program, but in the meantime, there is one step we can all take to protect ourselves: change that password on a regular basis, and make it a strong one (hint: 1234abcd doesn't cut it). Not sure what constitutes a strong password? Just search a term such as “password strength checker,” and you'll have a wide range of tools at your fingertips.



CyberSafety

SEVERE WEATHER

As the end of the school year approaches, students and staff are getting caught up in a whirlwind of activity, but there's another, more ominous whirlwind we all need to look out for—tornadoes. In Manitoba, several tornadoes touch down each year in a season that typically runs from April to September. That's why we've once again posted our risk management bulletin [Best Practices: Tornadoes](#). Check it out and share it so everyone will know the tell-tale signs that a tornado may be approaching, and what to do whether they are in a building, outside, or in a car.

