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## MSI IN ACTION

School fires are never good news, but it is good to know that, when they do strike, school divisions have Manitoba Schools Insurance (MSI) on their side. The program insures over \$10 billion worth of property in every school division in Manitoba, ranging from schools to bus garages to board offices. The two most recent fires both involved schools: Mary Duncan School in Kelsey S.D. (an estimated \$5 to \$7 million in damages), and Kildonan East Collegiate in River East Transcona S.D. (an estimated \$500,000 in damages). In addition to the actual property loss, MSI covers costs related to temporary accommodations for displaced students, and can facilitate the rapid processing of claims by coordinating site visits by adjustors, engineers, and other professionals. To learn more about MSI, contact Risk Manager [Keith Thomas](#).



leadership team, funding and budgets, the board's role as employer, and an overview of your association's services. To register, contact your division office.

## FIGURING IT OUT: BOARD CHAIRS' EDITION

At the end of the last week in November, we will be focussing on board chairs. On the evening of November 27, we will be meeting with new (or newer) board chairs at the Canad Inns Polo Park in a session that will provide basic information about chairing a meeting, including legislative requirements and meeting procedure. The full-day session on November 28 will be open to all current board chairs and vice-chairs, and will explore the chair's role and the particular skills essential to success. The program will include a segment on media relations challenges and strategies to help the chair fulfill his or her role as official board spokesperson, and an opportunity to learn from the experiences of veteran board chairs. To register, contact your division office.



## PLAY NICE!

It's one of those things we all should have learned in kindergarten—playing nice in the sandbox. Our next [webinar](#) will serve to remind trustees that the same sense of cooperation, fair play and camaraderie we learned on the playground also belongs in the boardroom. This 45-minute on-line session will help both incumbents and newly-elected trustees take stock of the contribution they can make to help build an effective and communicative board, right from the first days of their new, four-year term. The webinar will run live at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 5. There is no charge for this session, which is open to all trustees and administrators, but you must pre-register by contacting Board Development Consultant [Janis Arnold](#).



## PROVINCIAL BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

In preparation for its next provincial budget, the government of Manitoba is about to launch a new round of public budget consultations. The public can participate in several different ways: by attending an in-person meeting, by participating in a telephone town hall, by submitting a written presentation, or by completing the pre-budget [on-line survey](#). A full schedule of meetings and information about registering or submitting a written presentation can be found on the [2015 Pre-Budget Public Consultations website](#).



## FIGURING IT OUT: NEW TRUSTEES' EDITION

Congratulations! You successfully navigated the intricacies of running for public office, and are a school trustee. Now what? Well, may we suggest that you plan on attending our provincial new trustee orientation? We're offering it twice, on November 24 and 25 at the Victoria Inn in Brandon, and November 26 and 27 at the Canad Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg. The session runs from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. on day 1, and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on day 2. Topics covered will include an examination of the structure of Manitoba's education system, an exploration of what it means to govern, a look at school board structure, operations and the

## AFTER YOUR INAUGURAL MEETING...

Please remember to complete and submit your 2014-15 membership form. This form, which is being distributed in today's divisional email, provides the information we need to keep our databases up-to-date with current board chairs, names of all trustees and senior administrators, correct addresses and phone numbers, and more. And if any of that information changes over the next year, please keep us in the loop by notifying us as soon as possible.

