

2021 CONVENTION UPDATE

Have you marked Friday, March 19 on your calendar to attend the virtual 2021 annual convention? Although the convention will be scaled down next March, it will still retain the necessary components from our traditional, in-person event. The program is being finalized, but the broad outline – start and end times, and the nature of the day’s programming has been set. Information and details will be sent to boards by divisional mail soon!



FALL MEETING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOLLOW UP

The videos from our fall meeting PD session on the topic of **Representation on School Boards** and pre-recorded **Conversations with the Community** moderated by Rob Santos, former Director of the Provincial Healthy Child Office and Assistant Deputy Minister for K-12 education are now available [online](#).



You can view the condensed version [here](#) & full interviews with each of our guests: [Dr. Jerome Cranston](#), Ph.D., Professor and the Dean in the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina; [Darren Googoo](#), Chair of the CEA/EdCan Network, the Chair of the Council on Mi’kmaq Education and former Chair of the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board; and [Tom Gentzel](#), retired NSBA Executive Director (2012-2020) can be found on [YouTube](#).

ParticipACTION

The [2020 ParticipACTION Report Card](#) on Physical Activity for Children and Youth is the most comprehensive assessment of child and youth physical activity in Canada. The *Report Card* synthesizes data from multiple sources, including the best available peer-reviewed research, to assign evidence-informed grades across 14 indicators. The *Report Card* has been replicated in over 50 cities, provinces and countries, where it has served as a blueprint for collecting and sharing knowledge about the physical activity of young people around the world.



ASSESSMENT MATTERS!

[Assessment Matters!](#) is a series of policy-oriented research notes designed to explore educational issues in Canada and Canadian jurisdictions. These notes are based on the results of international and national assessment programs, including the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP), the Programme for International Student Assessment



(PISA), the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), and the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

OUTDOOR SKATING RINK SAFETY

The pandemic has rejuvenated interest in building outdoor ice rinks this winter. Given the recommendations from public health officials for physical education classes to be held outdoors, there could not be a better time to consider building an outdoor rink. Of course, it would involve physical distancing and closing it to the public during and after school hours to discourage gathering.



With the increased interest in setting up outdoor rinks, MSBA has created a bulletin regarding [risk management considerations for outdoor skating rinks](#). You will find information on surface conditions, flooding, ice thickness/conditions, rink boards, hazards, maintenance and more. The bulletin is available in [English](#) and [French](#) on the risk management [bulletins page](#) on our website.

INDIGENOUS SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING PROGRAM (SSLP)

[BCANDS](#) is now offering the [Indigenous Support for Student Learning Program \(SSLP\)](#). The SSLP is a time-limited project for Indigenous students across Canada who have limited financial resources, including those students living with disabilities. The SSLP is accepting applications from students of any age enrolled in a formal educational institution (either online, remote, or through on-site learning) to be considered to receive a laptop and accessories to assist with their continued education and success.



[Applications](#) must be received by BCANDS no later than March 15, 2021 for consideration. However, due to the limited funding and a high demand, we recommend that applicants submit their completed application as early as possible. Please contact [BCANDS](#) if you need assistance with the application or have any questions.

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