



## 2023 PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL AWARD



## BETTY PETERS

Western View School Division

The Manitoba School Boards Association would like to congratulate Betty Peters of Western School Division on winning the 2023 Presidents' Council Award. Recognizing exemplary service and outstanding achievement, innovative thinking and personal initiative, and lasting and pervasive impact in the field of public education, Betty Peters truly meets each and every one of these distinctions.

This year, our association was very pleased to welcome Manitoba's Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Anita Neville, PC, OM, to bestow the President's Council Award upon Ms. Peters alongside outgoing President Alan M. Campbell.

The citation for Ms. Peters' award is as follows:

Betty Peters began her career as Home School Liaison Worker in Western School Division 35 years ago, just prior to first day of school in 1988. As many in this audience well know, the role of Home School Liaison Worker is to ensure that students are successful. As a Home School Liaison, Betty changes lives.

Western School Division well attested that for 35 years, for the families in their division, Betty has been there. When a family is struggling to put food on the table so that children can eat, when a family needs parenting advice and support, when a child needs a staunch advocate, either with their own parents, their teacher or the system, when a teacher or an EA needs to make a connection to a home that is in dysfunction, when there is tragedy or loss in family with limited community or family ties, when a student, or a family member runs afoul of law, and need support, guidance and stability, when a low income or newcomer family without a car needs to attend a medical appointment 1.5 hours away in Winnipeg, and in endless other scenarios of complexity and need, Betty is there.

Her passionate advocacy for children is at the root of her work. She is compassionate and caring. Betty has been described by our students as "everybody's Mom" for her caring and concerned approach. She has a great understanding of the needs of Western's families and works hard to help them meet those needs.

She is very respected which allows her to have open conversations with parents where she encourages them, supports them, and challenges them when needed. This in turn helps foster a healthier experience with school for our students and their families. She walks along side of families as they experience many of life's challenges and helps them remain focussed on their priorities of making healthy, safe and strong decisions that allow their children to flourish. She doesn't give up on people when they have setbacks or make mistakes. Because of her caring and gentle approaches, her consistency and availability, she is able to maintain trusting relationships with people among whom trust is often a scarce commodity.

Betty bridges the divide between our school and marginalized communities within Morden, easing the tension that can exist for those families and improving the sense of belonging and connection they feel. Over the years, Betty has built lasting relationships that span generations and those relationships help to strengthen the connections between home and school.

Betty changes lives, and because of her many years of experience, the scope and reach of her work has sometimes extended to multiple generations within families. Betty knows success and achievement when her efforts result in the next generation of a family no longer requiring her assistance.

But Betty doesn't just change lives, she changes futures by empowering individuals to find their own strength and dignity and voice. Betty Peters is an outstanding employee in the Western School Division and is invaluable to our organization. We are so proud to work with her and to have had her expertise and care lead the way to relationship building with our most important contacts – our students and their families for 35 years.

It is an honour for MSBA to bestow this award upon Ms. Peters and to celebrate her countless achievements and dedication to generations of Manitobans in the Western School Division.



Ms. Betty Peters, the Honourable Anita Neville, PC, OM, and outgoing President Alan M. Campbell.