



March 14, 2023 - For Immediate Release
Manitoba School Boards Association Annual Convention
March 16 – 17, 2023—Delta Winnipeg

“Reconnect, Reflect, Recharge” is the theme of the 2023 Annual Convention of the Manitoba School Boards Association, which will be attended by approximately 300 elected school board members and administrators from across Manitoba.

Thursday, March 16, is dedicated to keynote presentations and workshops that build on the event’s theme. **Chief Cadmus Delorme** of the Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan will open the event at 9:15 a.m. with his keynote address, ***What we inherited and the responsibility we all have to do something about it.*** In his speech, Chief Delorme will bring history to the forefront with storytelling, an open-mindedness that we all inherited the situation and provides actions we can take. He will discuss why the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action are foundational to a stronger and better Canada. As the second Indigenous community in Canada that identified the presence of unmarked graves at the site of its former residential school, Cowessess took an important stage on our national consciousness when shining an important light on the tragedy that was the Indian Residential School experience.

At 3:30 p.m., delegates will hear from **Natalie Bergstrasser**, a social worker, connector, and communicator passionate about investing in the lives of people who have experienced trauma and the people and organizations that serve them. As a person with lived experience in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Natalie overcame many key challenges along her life’s path. In her keynote address titled ***Yes, and: the power of connection and the science of hope***, Natalie will discuss the journey of many young people when enduring adverse childhood experiences. Yet, as she will readily share, recent science tells us that there is an opportunity not just for survival but for healing and hope.

The focus of Friday, March 17, is association business. The day starts with an address by outgoing President Alan M. Campbell and includes resolutions, debate and elections for the association’s President, Vice-President (greater than 6000 students), and Directors for regions 2, 4 and 5.

On Friday from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Manitoba’s five public education partners (in alphabetical order: the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils, the Manitoba Association of School Business Officials, the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents, the Manitoba School Boards Association and the Manitoba Teachers’ Society) are hosting a **pre-election Provincial Debate Forum on K-12 Education with participation from all three sitting political parties**, including (in alphabetical order by surname): Mr. Nello Altomare as spokesperson for the Manitoba New Democratic Party, Mr. Wayne Ewasko as spokesperson for the Manitoba Progressive Conservative Party, and Dr. Jon Gerrard as spokesperson for the Manitoba Liberal Party. The facilitator of the forum is to be confirmed.

In addition, throughout the two days, there will be announcements for Student Citizenship Awards, AMM’s George Harbottle Memorial Award, MSBA’s Presidents’ Council Award, and recognition of trustee-long service and retiring executive. This convention, MSBA is also the proud recipient of the **Manitoba Historical Society’s Centennial Organization Award**, which will be presented at the members-only banquet during the evening of March 17. Founded in 1907, MSBA is proud of its service to school boards for well over a century. We would like to thank the Manitoba Historical Society for bestowing this important honour. Check our event program for a complete list of award recipients, except for The Presidents’ Council winner, who will also be announced at the Banquet on Friday evening.

The full text of all resolutions, profiles of all candidates running for elected office may be found online at <https://www.mbschoolboards.ca/about/convention/>.

Apart from the Friday afternoon meeting of board chairs with the Minister of Education and the President’s Banquet, all sessions of the convention are open to the media.

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For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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