



# Manitoba Association of Parent Councils

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## ***Board of Directors Committees Involvement***

*The MAPC Board of Directors is a diverse group of parents who lend their time to matters important to the educational well-being of children in Manitoba. Find out more the internal work and external committees in which they are involved in throughout Manitoba and Canada's educational system.*

# External Committee Involvement

## Active and Safe Routes to School

Boris Minkevich has been representing MAPC on the Active and Safe Routes to School committee operated by the Green Action Centre. This group is in the process of rejuvenating itself and MAPC looks forward to working with them again in the future.

## Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba Board Directors

Maria Fernandes participated on this committee whose goal is to provide funding and information to schools about the importance of nutrition and the effects healthy eating can have on learning. The council is currently undergoing changes and MAPC will not be participating on the committee during the next school year.

## Children's Coalition

MAPC has not been active with this group during the past year. We are currently in conversation with Community Living Manitoba to explore new ways of collaborating together.

## Educating for ACTION Program Planning Group

The Manitoba Association of School Superintendents, in partnership with the Manitoba Teachers Society, is planning a large scale conference in 2020 dedicated to the learning journey. Naomi Kruse is serving as a member of the planning group to assist with speaker selection and conference streams, as well as provide feedback about the two day event and its planned outcomes.

## Education for Sustainable Development Leadership Committee

This committee has been on hold since June 2017 but MAPC is looking forward to re-engaging with this Leadership committee in the near future.

## Education Partners Liaison Committee

During the past year, MAPC has participated in creating a formalized relationship between the five major education stakeholders: Manitoba Association of School Superintendents (MASS), Manitoba Teachers Society (MTS), Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA), Manitoba Association of

School Business Officials (MASBO), and MAPC. While MAPC has always engaged with these groups as an active partner in education, this new agreement allows the groups to work together in a collaborative manner to share opinions, ideas, and areas of joint advocacy relating to education matters in Manitoba. Each group is respectful of each other's autonomy and values and works together in a collegial manner to understand each other during a respectful, supportive, and productive dialogue. MAPC Executive Director will serve this committee as the Chairperson for the upcoming 2018 – 2019 school year alongside MAPC President, Boris Minkevich.

## **English as an Additional Language Advisory Committee (EAL)**

This group has not met this year.

## **Interorganizational Curriculum Advisory Committee (ICAC)**

ICAC is currently active but have been unable to meet this year.

## **Manitoba Education Research Network (MERN)**

The Manitoba Education Research Network (MERN) was an affiliation of partner organizations dedicated to facilitating a province wide education research community promoting, supporting, and celebrating professional learning, research connections, and research interests relevant to Manitoba. Naomi Kruse was the MAPC representative for MERN as well as its partner group, MTERG (Manitoba Teachers Education Research Group) working with post-secondary institutions involved in research in education in Manitoba.

MERN hosted a number of forums each year which were free events open to educators, leaders, and community members. These forums served to bring together education stakeholders interested in learning more about the theme and topic presented.

MERN coordinated the creation of the MERN Journal, MERN Monograph, and MERN Community Research to Community, as well as occasional papers from leading educators.

MERN also coordinated the annual MERN Awards, which recognized the work being done by educators, education stakeholders, and researchers towards creating dynamic and rich education experiences and understandings for students in Manitoba.

Unfortunately, funding for MERN was discontinued for the 2018 – 2019 year and the advisory has since disbanded, although a new group is emerging under the leadership of Dr. Heather Hunter. MAPC will continue working with Dr. Hunter as well as partners and education stakeholders to advance the value – as well as active partnerships - for locally based research projects benefitting students and education communities throughout Manitoba.

## **Manitoba's Excellence in Education Awards: Minister's Award Jury**

- *Respectfully submitted by MAPC Director, Ethel Raine*

Since 2006, Manitoba recognizes outstanding educators whose stimulating educational practices have a profound impact on student learning and engagement. Ethel Raine represented MAPC on this committee to review nominated educators by a rating based on a set scale and criteria. The Minister's Awards are intended to recognize outstanding achievement by Manitoba Educators and to honour creative, innovative and effective teaching practices in four categories: Teaching Excellence, Outstanding New Teacher, Outstanding Team Collaboration and Outstanding School Leader.

Three awards are presented in the Teaching Excellence category and one award in each of the remaining categories. Each award recipient receives a certificate of recognition and a \$500 cash award.

### ***Premier's Award for Excellence in Education.***

The recipient of this award will be selected from among all the nominees for the above-mentioned categories. An award reception is held in honour of the recipients.

## **Prime Minister's Teaching Award**

Report not submitted.

## **Safe Schools Manitoba Advisory Council**

Unfortunately, the funding for the Safe Schools Manitoba program was not renewed for 2017 – 2018, and the advisory was disbanded.

MAPC continues to participate in a variety of conversations with education stakeholders to encourage safe school practices and programs.

## **Social Justice Coalition**

The Social Justice Coalition is a group of individuals and organization interested in promoting a sustainable conversation about education for democracy. The coalition acknowledges the role of public schools in contributing to a just society and support social justice as a primary aim of public education. The Social Justice Coalition facilitates with colleagues, students and the public at large to Gain deeper understanding of social justice issues (cultural, social, educational and religion related). Khalid Mahmood has represented MAPC on this committee for the last two years. Topics this year

included: newcomers (immigrants and refugees) experiences in education; Peace Literacy, and review of inclusion and accessibility standards in Manitoba schools.

## **Student Services Inclusive Education Advisory Committee**

In 2017 – 2018, MAPC Executive Director, Naomi Kruse, participated in consultations to revise the Appropriate Educational Programming in Manitoba Standards for Student Services document. The original document can be viewed online at

[http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/aep/pdf/Standards\\_for\\_Student\\_Services.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/aep/pdf/Standards_for_Student_Services.pdf)

# **MAPC Internal Committees**

## **Advocacy Project Review (J Cameron and B Rempel)**

*Support and encourage membership and parents to utilize the services of the Advocacy Project by revisioning its relevancy*

During the past year, a complete review of the Empowering Parents guide has been undertaken by MAPC directors to ensure relevancy for MAPC membership and parents involved in the education system. The updated manual will be available online and to membership by September 2018. As this work continues, MAPC will continue to review, update, or create modules and resources for parents relating to parental advocacy in education systems, resources, and training opportunities to build greater parental empowerment in school communities.

## **Constitution and Policy Committee (J Cameron, K Mahmood, B Brazeau)**

*Govern MAPC through ongoing review and revision of its governing documents*

Work continues by the committee to ensure that policy and all constitutional updates are examined on an annual basis, or as required, by the Board of Directors. Plans are underway to coordinate strategic planning for the organization in the near future, as well as relevant training opportunities for board members to develop skills and understanding in sound governance practices.

## Director Applications Committee (B Minkevich, B Rempel, N Samu)

*Dedicated to increasing membership in MAPC as well as representation on the board of directors.*

### **Application Interview Checklist:**

A checklist was developed to help with the continuity of information during the interview process of potential applicants for Director positions on the MAPC Board.

### **Director Orientation:**

The Director orientation was based on the checklist along with additional information that is deemed important for new Directors to know about. It has been developed in two parts. The first is an outline that will be given to the new Directors during their orientation. The second part is the notes that go along with the outline.

### **Director Orientation Feedback Forms:**

Feedback forms still need to be developed. The plan is having them ready for just after the September meeting. In this way the interview process, the Director orientation, the retreat and the first meeting of the school year can be reviewed. The goal of this is to make the whole process more fluid for new Directors who join the organization.

## Events Committee (B Minkevich, M Fernandes, J Mitchell, A Reid)

*Support and encourage membership to engage actively with MAPC by hosting and participating in relevant MAPC events of interest to parents and parent groups.*

**Brandon** – Maria Fernandes and Naomi Kruse traveled to Kirkaldy Heights School in Brandon to meet with parents for the fifth Chairperson’s Breakfast for Western Manitoba. Five schools were represented from both the Brandon and Turtle Mountain school divisions. The group discussed the role that MAPC and the MAPC Advocacy Project plays in the education system, how to manage PAC meetings, and what strategies can be used to develop the parent voice in school and divisional planning.

**Winnipeg** – The Events Committee and volunteers hosted the 8th Annual Chairperson’s Breakfast at Sage Creek School in Louis Riel School Division in February 2018. More than 50 participants, representing six school divisions from Winnipeg and areas outside the city, were in attendance to network and learn about MAPC. This year, PAC representatives were empowered to decide what the agenda for the morning would include, by determining the topics that would be discussed by the group present. Over 10 topics were determined ranging from engaging in community and school planning, to organizing great fundraising events, and planning teacher and staff appreciation weeks! Parents were also given the chance to learn from each other by sharing their small group discussions in a large group sharing opportunity at the end of the day.

***Dauphin – Respectfully submitted by MAPC Director, Bernice Rempel***

Naomi and I went to Dauphin to conduct the Chairperson's Breakfast. Due to the lack of large registration numbers it was decided that MAPC would still proceed but to change the event up. We met for breakfast at Smitty's with four other individuals.

I believe the ladies were relieved to know that they were not the only ones having the same struggles as many PAC's in the Winnipeg area do.

Topics that were brought up included:

- \* Relationships between PAC's and administration
- \* The need for guidelines and constitutions
- \* Fundraising – small community base with lots of competing community events and individuals. There was discussion about pooling resources and considering joint projects
- \* Recruiting volunteers – how difficult it is. Many parents might volunteer during the school day and special interest groups but many don't know about PAC's and what they are about. Need to find more ways to have visibility during school wide events to increase interest in PAC's. An idea was mentioned about getting t-shirts for PAC members to wear when they are attending school wide events to increase the visibility and potential recruit individuals.

There was also discussion about what would work for a chairperson's breakfast in the Dauphin area to increase the number of attendees. Some of the things that came up include:

- \* Early morning not a good time to hold this type of meeting
- \* The school division is a large geographic area so some individuals would have to travel a fair distance. Early morning meetings make it difficult for outlying groups to want to attend
- \* Consider doing an event as a dinner on a weekend that could include a social time, a meal and then a meeting. There was talk about bring a speaker in
- \* It is possible that the high school could be used for this type of event and have the students cater the meal to keep costs down.
- \* Saturdays after 4pm would be potentially the best time to get the most amount of attendees. Would need to consider not letting the meeting run too late for those who have longer travel times.
- \* Need to have further discussions as to what time of year would be best for them to consider

## **Human Resources and Volunteers Committee (J Cameron, K Mahmood, B Brazeau)**

*Ensure that adequate and trained human capital and supports are available to govern and operate the organization*

This past year has seen the approval of updated job descriptions for the Executive Director and Administrative Assistant which reflect the changes that have transpired as a result of growth and responsibilities for both positions.

Additionally, the committee recently presented to the board of directors for approval, a new position description for an additional staff person with direction to explore granting opportunities to fund this position.

## **MAPC Awards Committee (M Fernandes and E Raine)**

*Promote and celebrate parental involvement and partnerships*

**Judy Aiken Award** – no significant changes were made during the application process in 2017 – 2018.

**Parent Council Recognition Award** – no significant changes were made during the application process in 2017 – 2018.

## **Membership Committee - NEW**

A new internal committee was formed in September 2017 through discussion by the board of directors to explore ways and methods to increase school and community based memberships for MAPC.

## **Module Development and Resource Review (J Cameron, B Brazeau, J Mitchell, and B Rempel)**

*Encourage parents, parent groups, and stakeholders to use MAPC as a support and resource by providing and creating relevant materials and resources as well as engaging opportunities to participate in*

In January 2018, work started on a complete review of current MAPC presentation modules – Roles and Responsibilities of Parent Council, Volunteers, and Effective Meetings. Updated materials will be made available to parent councils starting in September 2018.

In addition to the review of current modules, a new promotional brochure was created to condense information into one easy to access pamphlet which will be made available to membership and parent groups through the MAPC website in May 2018. Additionally, a complete review is being conducted of the Resource Manual for Parent Councils and will be completed by September 2018.

Finally, discussion is underway by the committee to create exciting new modules of interest to parent groups in the new school year. Updates will be shared with membership as the work progresses.

## Other Activities

### Anti-Racism Action Plan for Education

The Anti-Racism Action Plan was created with input from each of the major education stakeholders to develop a plan, including actions, to address racism in Manitoba schools. Much of the discussion focused on the Treaty and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action released in 2015 ([http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)) as well as the MacLean's magazine article which declared Winnipeg to be the most racist city in Canada (<http://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/welcome-to-winnipeg-where-canadas-racism-problem-is-at-its-worst/>)

As a result of these discussions, many actions were identified and highlighted by the partners in helping to combat racism in schools. The Indigenous Inclusion Directorate continues to conduct information sessions throughout the province to draw attention to understanding the impact of racism in schools. Manitoba Education and Training continues to develop resources and materials dedicated to understanding and addressing racism in schools. In 2017, as part of the education partners team facilitated by the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate, Naomi was involved in the completion of the *Critical/Courageous Conversations on Race* parent support document, which is currently on schedule to go to print at the time of this report. This document was created to assist parents in understanding the impacts of racism on children and school communities, as well as provide useful tools and resources to engage in conversations at home and in the community. The completed document is available for distribution both online as well as at the MAPC AGM and Conference in 2018.

## Canadian Education Regional Exchange

In April 2017, MAPC was invited to send representatives of the organization to Calgary to take part in a regional exchange dialogue about education related practices and the relation to work done with the Canadian Education Association in its work to revitalize the organization and ensure current relevancy as well as into the future. The result of these talks was a rebranding to EdCan Network and a renewed vision of a network of resources for educators and education stakeholders throughout Canada. Past-president Judith Cameron and Executive Director Naomi Kruse were selected as the representatives for MAPC – one of the only teams from Manitoba to participate.

For more information about the EdCan Network (formerly CEA Canada), please visit [www.edcan.ca](http://www.edcan.ca)

## Farm 2 School

MAPC was invited to be involved in an evaluation planning session to “develop a Farm 2 School logic model and evaluation framework that will guide ongoing evaluation and program improvement.” This was an all-day event that was held at the Peak of the Market on March 15.

The evaluation process that was conducted throughout the day included:

1. Engaging stakeholders – what is the purpose, what information is being examined, what should be done with the information that has been or will be collected
2. Focus – what does the organization want to evaluate? A priority list needs to be developed. A logic model was used for this process that used specific indicators in the process
3. Gathering the data, information, by conversation, reflection and surveys
4. Analyzing the data – in a qualitative way. Looking at some of the themes of the organization. What is working? What is not working?
5. What is the organization going to do with the new information that has been learned? How are things going to change?

MAPC was invited as a partner for the evaluation process. Once the follow up meeting takes place there might be a better understanding of the things that might be expected from the partners.

## High School Ethics Bowl

MAPC Executive Director, Naomi Kruse, has participated as a moderator for the High School Ethics Bowl, in partnership with Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties (MARL) for three of the past four years.

The High School Ethics Bowl brings together teams of public high school students from Winnipeg and surrounding communities to discuss ethical issues in a respectful dialogue, focused on building on the points each team presents, rather than proving a point of view to be either right or wrong as one would see during a traditional debate. Points are awarded by a slate of judges based on research done about the issue and ability to encourage or question perspectives presented in an engaging and respectful manner by each team member.

The success of the High School Ethics Bowl has started to gain national attention and the upcoming school year will see teams from across Canada join the activities – including the first ethical discussions for students to engage in French/Francais!

## Parents Be The Change

In 2017, MAPC partnered with Dr. Sheri Lynn Skwarchuk (University of Winnipeg) to create the *Parents Be the Change Research Project*. Dr. Skwarchuk and Executive Director, Naomi Kruse, worked in school communities on an inquiry project to discover what happens when parents are given time, space, and supports (such as a motivating speakers and supportive peer mentorships with other parents) where they can learn and network together to create meaningful change in their families, schools, and communities. The project was done for a second time during the 2017 – 2018 school year and writing about the findings will begin during the summer of 2018.

## Peace Literacy

- *Respectfully submitted by MAPC Director, Bernice Rempel*

The idea of peace literacy was created by Paul Chappell. Peace literacy frames peace not merely as a goal but as a practical skill set. It allows an individual to increase peace realistically in their individual life. It has the potential to change our communities, nations and the world. It helps the individual to fully develop their capacity for empathy, conscience, reason and realistic hope. Peace literacy provides a realistic and empowering framework for understanding what it means to be human. It enables individuals to look at the root causes of violence and the nature of peace. It provides the framework for understanding the anatomy of trauma in all its forms in our lives. Peace literacy teaches people how to create solutions that heal the root causes of our human problems. The

wellbeing of our communities and the world will depend on humanity moving from pre literacy in peace to peace literacy.

I first heard Paul speak back in October 2017 on two occasions. The first was held at the Manitoba Teachers Association. There were various administrators, educators and parents in attendance to learn what peace literacy was about. The second was at the Mennonite University. This was a panel discussion with several leaders from the city. Paul's main focus of each evening was to discuss man's basic needs which include: purpose and meaning, belonging, self-worth, explanation, nurturing relationships, expressions, inspiration, challenge and transcendence. For each of the basic human needs there is an opposite negative characteristic. It is these negative aspects that are cause in a person's life due to various forms of trauma. As a result individuals often grow up with various dysfunctions. It is these dysfunctions that contribute to so much of the unrest we see around us. He also talked about key ingredients that are needed to form true community. These include: shared trust, share empathy, shared participation, shared purpose/ideals/vision, shared history, shared experiences and shared struggles.

On April 26 & 27, 2018, Paul Chappell is coming back to Winnipeg to speak at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The topic over both days will be "Peace Literacy: Skills and Leadership Workshop". Some of the workshop themes include: transforming MB schools through peace literacy in particular to shared humanity, that are of listening, and the art of being; and building peace literacy in the classroom. The organizers are preparing to seat 200 people for this 2 day conference. They are hoping that trustees, superintendents, administrators, teachers and students are able to come together for this experience so that we can learn together and find ways to take this information back to every school division and school in the province. [At the time of the writing of the report the conference has not yet taken place]

## Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students

In 2017, MAPC was invited to take part in discussions relating to the creation of a school support document *Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students*. This document was published in August 2017 and can be viewed at

<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/support/transgender/index.html>

*Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students* has also been nominated recently for its work in the Partnerships category for the Manitoba Service Excellence Award (MSEA) by the Manitoba Civil Service Commission.

## The Manitoba Innovation Challenge

In late 2017, the North Forge Partnership (*a non-profit which works with business partners throughout the province to provide supports to entrepreneurs and startups needing mentorship and other in-kind assistance*) announced the Manitoba Innovation Challenge. This Challenge was looking for creative projects which utilized play-based learning for children under 5 to develop literacy and numeracy skills in Manitoba. Current research shows that many students are entering kindergarten without the skills to ensure success in their education - as demonstrated by the PISA and PCAP test scores.

MAPC was invited by Dr. Sheri Lynn Skwarchuk to work with a team of more than 20 professionals from throughout Manitoba develop a proposal for the Manitoba Innovation Challenge to build a prototype for - The Toy Box.

The Toy Box is an app designed to deliver easy to implement daily reminders of activities that parents can do in the car, on the bus, or even in the supermarket to assist young children in developing early numeracy and literacy foundations. It also includes daily wellness tips for parents because, as Dr. Skwarchuk likes to remind parents, “you’ve got to put the oxygen mask on yourself before you can help your child.”

This app was successful in making it to the top 10 considerations by North Forge, and although it did not make it to the top three – Sheri will continue to work with her team to secure support for the app in the very near future.

## Winnipeg Indigenous Accord

In April 2017, MAPC entered into an agreement as a signatory for the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord, committing to work toward reconciliation and implementation of the TRC recommendations. This commitment was approved by the MAPC Board of Directors as a catalyst to ensure that MAPC was actively working towards greater understanding and involvement as both a support and an ally for parents and partners in education in all matters relating to the education and the First Peoples and all citizens of Canada. Past President, Judith Cameron, attended the ceremony with Executive Director, Naomi Kruse. MAPC’s action items included:

1. We will continue to open MAPC meetings and events by recognizing that we live, work, and meet on Treaty Land in the homeland of the Metis people, to ensure that every MAPC volunteer, director, employee, and member parent group understands that the land has a deep connection to our collective histories as First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people, as well as settlers and newcomers (TRC Recommendation 45.iii)
2. Offering opportunities for MAPC membership, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to learn about the history of the colonization of Canada and legacy of the Residential School system

through workshops and exercises coordinated in partnership with the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate. (TRC Recommendation 10.vi and 10.vii)

3. Offering support, as a friend and ally of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people and their respective school communities, to assist in the collaborative development of relevant resources, supports, and materials promoting the inclusion of autonomous parental voice in a variety of school systems, for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people, as well as allies and partners. (TRC Recommendation 10.v and 10.vi)

These action items have resulted in the development of the proposed resolution included in the members book of reports for 2018, as well as the development of the Acknowledging the Traditional Lands of the Indigenous Peoples of Manitoba document available online

<http://www.mapc.mb.ca/PDFs/Treaty%20Land%20Acknowledgement%20Document.pdf>

Additionally, MAPC has also participated in a round table discussion in December 2017 surrounding three important areas in Indigenous Education in Manitoba:

1. Student and Family Wellbeing
2. Student Transitions: Early Childhood Development and K-12 Education
3. Student Transitions: Adult Learning, Post-Secondary and the Workplace

***Beyond 94 – respectfully submitted by Bernice Rempel***

CBC recently launched an interactive website to monitor national progress towards the 94 calls to action. The website, Beyond 94, provides up-to-date status reports, and extensive summaries explaining those status reports. Each call to action is assigned to one of 4 categories: not started, in progress – projects proposed, in progress – projects underway, or complete. As of March 2018, 10 of the 94 calls to action were classified as complete. While Beyond 94 does not classify any of the education calls to action as complete, significant progress is being made in this area. The Canadian School Boards Association has documented that progress, as well as progress in calls to action related to language and culture, professional development and training for public servants, and education for reconciliation, on its website.

The CBC has been or will be conducting various Town Hall Meetings across the country. I had the privilege of attending one of these meetings at St. John's High School on Thursday, March 22. The purpose of this Beyond 94 is to take a look at the actions that were developed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and to discuss how things have progressed since then and where we as a country go from here. Overall, it was a very moving evening.

***If you are interested in learning more about MAPC's involvement  
in any of the committees described herein,  
please contact the MAPC office or take a moment to  
speak with a MAPC Director during the conference.  
Thank you.***