



MAPC Newsletter

Fall 2009

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Welcome Back!

Welcome back to new and returning school council members and parents! As we begin a new school year, parents throughout the province are busy organizing both their school councils and events to enhance the parental role and voice in their school communities.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with MAPC, I invite you to visit our website. Please note that there will be some exciting changes on the website in the very near future. (I'll keep you posted). I also encourage you to call or email our office to learn about the presentations, provincial tours, and events being planned for the year by the MAPC Board of Directors, which can provide professional development opportunities for the parents and leaders in your school community.

Membership packages have now been sent to all schools and divisions throughout the province. Thank you to the divisions who have registered early this year for their continued support of parental involvement in the education system!

If you haven't registered as a member yet, or need more information to help you make an informed decision, email or call our office and we would be glad to help you out.

With over 800 schools in Manitoba, MAPC is always looking for ways to enhance the parental voice in education. Have you ever considered becoming a MAPC Board Director? It's a great way towards taking that "next step" in your involvement and is a fascinating opportunity to discover strengths and talents you never knew you had while benefitting parents everywhere.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions about emerging issues in education that you would like to discuss. Our volunteer Board of Directors are available to meet with your group or to help strengthen your involvement in your school community.

Watch our website, newsletter, and e-bulletins for more information throughout the year.

From everyone involved with Manitoba Association of Parent Councils, have a wonderful school year!

- Naomi Kruse, Executive Director

Canadian Home and School Federation Update to MAPC Membership

As the MAPC representative I am currently addressing concerns raised by our membership about Manitoba's involvement with the Canadian Home and School Federation (CHSF).

These concerns were brought forth as a result of the **Constitutional Vote held at the MAPC Annual General Meeting in May, 2009**. Members at this meeting discussed a motion to remove all references to Canadian Home and School Federation from the MAPC Constitution, which may subsequently affect MAPC's involvement with CHSF. The motion was deferred, based on the need for further information. MAPC was directed by its membership to participate to the best of our ability pending further discussion at our 2010 AGM.

MAPC publicly declared its intent to work with the members of CHSF to improve and strengthen the organization and assigned the role of CHSF director representing MAPC to me. As a result, I was then elected to the position of Western Vice President for CHSF, brought forth by a nomination from the floor, at the CHSF AGM held in Winnipeg in June, 2009.

Here are some of the highlights of the Annual General Meeting:

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"Don't laugh at a youth for his affectations; he is only trying on one face after another to find a face of his own."

- Logan Pearsall Smith

*CHSF Update
Cont'd from page 1*

Financial Report – Information on the CHSF budget was presented identifying previous problems encountered by the organization. These included; inaccurate ledger entries, miscalculation on entries, non remittances of Revenue Canada documents, and other irregularities. Consultation has been secured to oversee and maintain the bookkeeping, provide advice concerning the development of budgets, and other financial work. The board intends to be well informed on the financial aspects of CHSF, as there is currently no staff to manage this function since the closure of its office due to financial considerations.

CHSF Office – The CHSF office was located in Ottawa and was not occupied by staff or volunteers to maintain its day to day operations. Due to the difficulties in maintaining the office it was agreed that there was no need for a central location at this point. An inventory and cataloguing of items for dispersal was conducted. The work was completed during the summer of 2009.

CHSF Website – The website was down longer than the CHSF Board originally anticipated during its reconstruction and was launched during the summer of 2009. Concerns were raised about ability to access the site to make required changes and that no one was able to physically maintain the site. The committee was tasked with making it more “user” friendly and updating menu options. To view the website, please visit www.canadianhomeandschool.com

Big Online - CHSF entered into a four year contract (at an expense of \$5000) with Big Online to access funding opportunities to support nationally focused projects. There was confusion regarding the access date which was later confirmed as being November 2008. CHSF is now in its second year of the contract and a nationally focussed proposal is being developed.

Late Motion/By Law Amendment – The CHSF Executive put forth a late motion to decrease the number of Vice-President positions serving on the CHSF Board of Directors, as a result of its concern about the financial impact that would be felt if MAPC – or other provinces – were to cancel their membership. It was pointed out that there was not a significant need to address this as MAPC was participating and that the late motion itself was not a valid one. After further discussion, the motion was pulled and the configuration currently remains the same.

Copyright (Bill C61) – An update was provided on the status of this multi agency committee, of which CHSF is a member, which was created to address copyright issues in the school system. The committee is looking for government action and support on Bill C61 and is concerned that it will die in parliament if there is an election forthcoming.

Direction of CHSF and Building of Strengths – Concerns were expressed about the effectiveness of CHSF and questions raised regarding the benefits of membership. An internal committee consisting of each member province has been formed to review the organization and determine the direction to take to address the concerns expressed. One area being explored is changing the focus of Canadian Home and School Federation to becoming one of networking opportunities and provincial sharing at a national level.

Networking Opportunities – Provincial sharing occurred around the table and it was a great opportunity to see what other organizations were working on and to share in their successes and challenges.

By continuing to honour good stewardship practices, MAPC remains committed to exploring the issues and concerns regarding our membership with CHSF. These concerns include; board governance practices, fiscal responsibility, membership representation (board and executive), communication methods, and the viability of CHSF in the future. Regular updates will continue to be provided to MAPC membership for further accountability and transparency.

If you have any questions regarding this update, please contact the MAPC office (204) 945-6977 and watch for additional updates in our e-bulletin, newsletter, and website.

- **Judith Cameron, President**
MAPC CHSF Representative /Western Vice President CHSF

Please note - MAPC has current copies of all CHSF documents including its Constitution, Standing Rules, Policies and Procedures, and past meeting minutes.

For further information on Canadian Home and School Federation, please visit their website at <http://www.canadianhomeandschool.com/CHSF/Welcome.html>

H1N1 Updates

MAPC strongly encourages parents who have concerns and questions about the H1N1 flu virus, to consult with their school administrator and/or division about the pandemic preparedness plans that are already in place and how to help ensure communication methods are reaching *all* families in their communities.

For further information, please refer to the following websites:

Frequently asked questions for families of children attending schools in Manitoba—

www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/flu/h1n1_qa_school_parents.pdf

Frequently asked questions about the H1N1 flu virus—

www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/flu/flu_faq.pdf

Guidelines for pandemic preparedness—

www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/flu/index.html

Self care for Influenza—

Did you know?

That Teacher Staff Appreciation Week (TSAW), while recognized as a week to show appreciation for the work done by educators throughout Canada, is not officially recognized in Manitoba?

This gives each parent group in Manitoba the autonomy to choose a day or week during the school year (in consultation with the school administrator) to show its appreciation for the hard work done in providing our children the best public education possible.

Our Apologies!

In the Spring 2009 edition of the MAPC Newsletter (MAPC Board Meeting, Re: Moratorium on School Closures—Bill 28) reference was made to a school concerning ongoing debate regarding school closure and amalgamation. It has been brought to our attention that this information was not verified. MAPC apologizes to our membership for any difficulties this misunderstanding may have caused.

Dates to Remember

September is Arthritis, Muscular Dystrophy, Breakfast for Learning, Healthy Communities, and Country Music Month

September 07—Labour Day
September 08—International Literacy Day
September 16—International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer
September 19—20—Rosh Hashanah
September 20—Eid al Fitr
September 21—International Day of Peace
September 28—Yom Kippur
September 30—International Translation Day

October is Brain Injury, Lupus, National Child Abuse Prevention, Canadian Library, Autism Awareness, Community Living, and Women's History Month

October 01—International Day for Older Persons
October 01—International Music Day
October 04—10—National Fire Prevention Week
October 05—11—National Family Week
October 05—International Walk to School Day
October 05—World Teachers Day
October 10—World Mental Health Day
October 12—Thanksgiving
October 16—World Food Day
October 17—International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
October 18—Persons Day
October 24—United Nations Day
October 31—Halloween

November is Diabetes, Crohn's Disease and Colitis, Haemophilia, Family Violence, Adoption, and CPR Awareness Month

November 01— Daylight Savings Ends
November 02—06—National Media Literacy Week
November 05—11—National Veterans Week
November 08—National Aboriginal Veterans Day
November 11—Remembrance Day
November 15—21—Bullying Awareness Week
November 16—22—Addictions Awareness Week
November 16—International Day of Tolerance
November 20—Universal and National Child Day
November 21—World Television Day
November 27—Eid al Adha
November 28—Ukrainian Famine and Genocide Memorial Day (Holodomor)

December 01—World AIDS Day
December 02—International Day of the Abolition of Slavery
December 03—International Day of Disabled Persons
December 05—International Volunteer Day
December 06—National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
December 07—International Civil Aviation Day
December 10—International Human Rights Day
December 12—19—Chanukah
December 18—Muharram
December 25—Christmas Day
December 26—Boxing Day
December 26—January 01—Kwanza
December 31—New Year's Eve

January is Alzheimer Awareness Month

January 01—New Year Day
January 17—Martin Luther King Day
January 27—Family Literacy Day

Save the Date!

Mark your calendar to attend the
MAPC Annual General Meeting and Conference on
April 23 and 24, 2010 at the
Victoria Inn in Winnipeg!
This year's topic is

Our Children: Their Challenges
How their challenges become our challenges.

*Also, Don't forget to take a moment to consider a worthy nomination of an
outstanding parent volunteer in your school community for the Judy Aiken Memorial Award!*

Watch for further details!

Safe Schools and Effective Consultation with Parents

In response to recent media attention given to the act of "hazing" as an initiation tool aimed at students entering high school during their freshman year, MAPC discussed its position on Safe Schools and Effective Consultation with Parents during their most recent Board Meeting and during an interview with City TV.

MAPC believes that schools must firstly protect their students—no matter the issue—and that a thorough, impartial investigation must be done to ensure fairness to all parties. We also support all initiatives taken towards uncovering physical, verbal, and psychological harassment.

MAPC also encourages both educators and the province to continue including parents during the consultation process involving parents, parent councils, or topics pertaining to students.

The MAPC Advocacy Project 2009—2010

*Do you have a passion for helping
parents find their voice in
the education system?
This may be the opportunity for you!*

**A Training Session for
Volunteer Parent Advocates** is being planned
for **November, 2009.**

Please visit the MAPC website www.mapc.mb.ca
or call the office at
956-1770 or 1-877-290-4702 for an application
or for more
information about volunteering
as a Parent Advocate.

*Please note that volunteers are accepted upon
successful completion of an interview, reference
check, and criminal record check.*

MAPC Membership

Membership registration forms have been sent out to every
school and division in Manitoba.
Please check to ensure that your membership is current so your
parent group's voice is added!

The MAPC membership year runs September 01, 2009—August 31, 2010.

If you have not received your application form,
contact the MAPC office or visit our website to download a
PDF form which can be faxed or mailed to our office.

*Remember—your application must be received no later than
January 31, 2010 to remain a member in good standing
for voting privileges at our Annual General Meeting.
(per MAPC Constitution)*

*Thank you to the following school divisions for your early registrations and your
continued support of the parental voice in education:*

*Flin Flon
Louis Riel
Southwest Horizon
Beautiful Plains
Western
Sunrise
Seven Oakes
Winnipeg
Turtle Mountain*

MAPC Board of Directors

Executive Board

Judith Cameron, President
Alanna Rawluk, Vice-President
Linda Meads, Treasurer
Khalid Mahmood, Secretary

Directors

Marilyn Kolody
Sharon Machinski
Ethel Raine
Martin Simmons
Doug Zintel

Winnipeg Office

Naomi Kruse—Executive Officer and
Advocacy Project
Coordinator
Jill Miner—Administrative Assistant



*The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and enhancing meaningful involvement
and participation of parents in order to improve the education and well-being of children in Manitoba.*