



# MAPC Newsletter



Winter 2011

Phone: 956-1770 Toll Free: 1-877-290-4702 Website: [www.mapc.mb.ca](http://www.mapc.mb.ca) Email: [info@mapc.mb.ca](mailto:info@mapc.mb.ca)

## President's Report

It is hard to believe how fast the past year has gone by.

We are well into plans for the upcoming Annual General Meeting and Conference on May 6 and 7 and working hard on other projects we have on the go including:

- Best Practices Guide
- Parental Engagement Survey template and
- Development of more modules for delivery to our member parent councils.

This year, MAPC also initiated a formal strategic planning process that has allowed us to determine our core organizational goals and set concrete objectives to achieve them. Part of this process included creating a vision statement which truly reflects where we are and where we hope to go.

At the same time, we are participating in an organizational review with our funder to look at gaps in service, any issues of concern and our current methods and practices. This will allow us to become stronger and more accountable to our membership. We will keep you informed on these processes and the outcomes.

As we move towards our 100th year of parental participation in Manitoba's education system, we embrace and recognize the hard work of those individuals and groups that brought us to this point and look forward to more opportunities for our organization to play a leading role in the educational realm. We have a committed volunteer board of directors that are determined to stay the course and work as hard as they can to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves.

If you would like to be a part of this process, please consider becoming a board member. Your skills and expertise would be utilized to the fullest and your enthusiasm for MAPC would be reflected in the work we have ahead of us.

We welcome your input and your support.

Judith Cameron  
President, MAPC

## MAPC Advocacy Project

Are you experiencing a challenge with your school or division that you don't know how to resolve?

Do you need help in clarifying a policy or legislation to better understand your child's school experience?

The MAPC Advocacy Project is dedicated to helping parents resolve their challenges in the education system by helping to achieve resolution that makes sense.

If you would like to more about the MAPC Advocacy Project, please contact the Advocacy Project Coordinator, Naomi Kruse at the MAPC office.

*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.*

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*Judith Cameron  
President, MAPC*

### Dates to Remember

#### ***January is Alzheimer Awareness Month***

January 01—New Year Day  
January 17—Martin Luther King Day  
January 22—Chairperson's Breakfast for MAPC Members  
January 27—Family Literacy Day

#### ***February is National Heart, National Eating Disorder, Black History, and Junior Achievement Month***

February 02—Groundhog Day  
February 02—World Wetland Day  
February 13—19—Teacher Staff Appreciation Week (can vary)  
February 14—Valentine's Day  
February 15—National Flag of Canada Day  
February 21—Louis Riel Day

#### ***March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness, Kidney Disease, Help Fight Liver Disease, Nutrition Month, Red Cross, and Learning Disabilities Awareness Month***

March 08—International Women's Day  
March 08—United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace  
March 09—Commonwealth Day  
March 17—St. Patrick's Day  
March 21—International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
March 22—World Water Day  
March 23—World Meteorological Day  
March 27—World Theatre Day

#### ***April is Cancer Awareness, Autism Awareness, Stay Alert—Stay Safe, Dental Health, and Parkinson's Disease Month***

April 07—World Health Day  
April 22—Earth Day Canada  
April 23—Canadian Writers' Day  
April 28—National Day of Mourning  
April 28—Day of Mourning for Canadians Killed on the Job  
April 29—International Dance Day



### **Quote for the day...**

I don't know the key to success but I know the key to failure is trying to please everybody.

*Bill Cosby—Actor, Comedian, Producer*

### MAPC NEEDS YOUR FEEDBACK

The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils is committed to its' members and is striving to increase participation at our Annual General Meeting and Conference. Despite our best intentions, we are challenged to get full representation of the majority of our members at this spring event. Do we need to improve communication? Do we need to send out the invitation earlier? Is your Parent Advisory Council struggling?

MAPC is inviting you to share your challenges with us so we can best plan our AGM and Conference and increase attendance. We want to know your thoughts on how we might achieve our goal.

Please call the office at 204-956-1770 (toll free 1-877-290-4702) or email us at [info@mapc.mb.ca](mailto:info@mapc.mb.ca) to give us your thoughts or ideas on how we can improve participation.

Thank you for your assistance!

### **Parent Advisory Councils Best Practices Guide**

MAPC is often asked questions from Parent Councils regarding governance practices. *"How do we create a constitution?" How often does our PAC need to make amendments or update our constitution? Does MAPC have any templates our PAC can use?"*

These are just a few of the questions we receive on a regular basis. We'd like you to know that, as Judith mentioned in her President's Message, we are currently in the process of developing a *"Best Practices Guide"* that will lend support to PACs and help ensure successful, meaningful groups across Manitoba.

In the meantime, please visit [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/support/school\\_partnerships/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/support/school_partnerships/index.html) for a handbook entitled, *"School Partnerships: A Guide for Parents, Schools and Communities"*. In it you will find useful information on parental involvement, the Advisory Council for School Leadership Regulation as well as the broad scope of roles and responsibilities.

Watch for our *Best Practices Guide* in the new school year!

### **Did you know....**

*That although MAPC was incorporated as the Home and School Parent Teacher Federation of Manitoba in 1954, parent and school involvement dates back to 1912, when the first parent and school meetings were initiated in Brandon by a local group of teachers?*

*MAPC is celebrating 100 years of parental involvement in Manitoba Schools in 2012!*

**Ask MAPC About .....  
Financial Reporting**

*“I’ve recently taken over as Treasurer for our Parent Council and I am terrified that I’m going to make a mistake. Help!”*

Many people are intimidated by the thought of responsibility for finances other than their own. The best way to help ease the stress is to familiarize yourself with the process required. First, does your PAC have a job description for the position? Does your school or division have requirements which need to be considered for financial reporting with PACs? Will your PAC support professional development learning opportunities for you? Does your PAC require annual audits for its financials?

Second, if there is a clear reporting system in place—use it! If not—or if it needs updating—develop one in consultation with your PAC, School Administrator, and School Division. (*Your school division contact would most likely be the Secretary-Treasurer or School Business Official*).

Always remember, all governance groups are bound by the Duty of Loyalty, Duty of Care and Duty of Obedience. If you can demonstrate that you have acted in the best interests of all three, you will be fine.

Relax and enjoy the experience! Do your best and contact MAPC with any additional questions you may have.

*Do you have a question you would like to see addressed in the newsletter? Would you like to know more about helping your group to become more effective? Please email [info@mapc.mb.ca](mailto:info@mapc.mb.ca) or fax your request to the MAPC office at (204) 956-7780. Specific groups will not be identified within the newsletter.*



**New Presentations Available from  
MAPC for Membership!**

The MAPC Board of Directors has finished the development and redevelopment of the following presentations, now available to our member groups!

- Roles and Responsibilities of the PAC
- Volunteerism
- Effective Meetings

Also available, but scheduled for updating are:

- The MAPC Advocacy Project
- What is MAPC?

Proposed topics for consideration in the near future are:

- Conflict Resolution and your PAC

*If you have any questions—or would like to suggest a topic for future consideration - please contact the MAPC office.*

**MAPC Board of Directors Nominations**

*It's your chance to participate in a leadership role at the provincial level!*

MAPC is looking to increase and diversify its Board of Directors!  
Are *you* looking for an opportunity to increase your involvement?

Take a few minutes to review the  
**Board of Directors Nomination Package**, enclosed with this mail out.

If you have any questions, please visit the MAPC website or call the MAPC office.  
We would be happy to have a member of the  
MAPC Nominations Committee get in touch with you!

**Call for Resolutions**

Every year, Parent Councils discuss issues they would like to see addressed by Manitoba Education.

MAPC has included a “*Call for Resolutions*” form with this mail out which your group may want to consider filling in and including in our Annual Book of Reports.

If you would like to have *your* proposed resolution included in our Annual Book of Reports for consideration of adoption by the MAPC membership, please return it to the MAPC office no later than **February 18, 2011**.

**Judy Aiken Memorial Award**

Do you know an individual who exemplifies dedication and volunteerism serving on your Parent Council?

If so, please visit the MAPC website or review the enclosed application form to nominate a deserving individual for the  
**2011 Judy Aiken Memorial Award.**

*Please note that applications must be received by March 25, 2011 in order to be considered.*

## Upcoming Events

### MAPC Annual General Meeting and Conference

May 6 and 7, 2011

"It's Our Time—Strengthening the Parental Voice in Education"

Information and registration packages have been included in this mail out for representatives of your Parent Council to attend our upcoming Annual General Meeting and Conference on May 6 and 7, 2011.

If you have any questions about this weekend, please visit our website or call the MAPC office at 956-1770 or toll free at 1-877-290-4702.

Remember to send in your registration early to guarantee your spot.

### MAPC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

#### New Fax Number

Please note that MAPC has changed its office fax number to 204-956-7780.

*Thank you* to the schools/divisions that have sent in your completed registration forms.

If your school has not yet done so, visit our website at [www.mapc.mb.ca](http://www.mapc.mb.ca) to download a copy, or call the office at 204-956-1770.

*Please note, that in order to have voting privileges at our Annual General Meeting on May 6, 2011, your membership registration must be received no later than March 6, 2011.*

## MAPC Board of Directors

### Executive Board

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

### Directors

Milli Khan  
Marilyn Kolody  
Martin Simmons  
Ethel Raine

### Winnipeg Office

Naomi Kruse—Executive Director and Advocacy  
Project Coordinator  
Renee Ritchot—Administrative Assistant

## Why Does Membership With MAPC Matter?

By registering as a member of Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC), you continue to ensure that the parental voice in Manitoba's education system is carried to the government and other provincial education organizations.

Membership benefits also include:

- Workshops and professional development opportunities for parent councils
- Seasonal newsletters and semi-monthly e-bulletins
- Reduced fees to attend the Annual Spring Conference
- Participation at the Annual General Meeting where *you* have the opportunity to vote on behalf of *your* parent council about matters concerning parents involved in the education system in Manitoba.

Call the MAPC office at (204) 956-1770 or toll free at 1-877-290-4702, or visit our website at [www.mapc.mb.ca](http://www.mapc.mb.ca), to learn more about *your* membership with Manitoba Association of Parent Councils.

## Contacting MAPC

If your parent group is considering booking a presentation - or is looking for some support and resources to help run your group more effectively - please contact the MAPC office and we will put you in touch with your local representative or another director who would be more than happy to assist you!

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