



MAPC Newsletter



Spring/Summer
2010

Phone: 956-1770 Toll Free: 1-877-290-4702 Website: www.mapc.mb.ca Email: info@mapc.mb.ca

President's Message

Thank you to all of our members who attended our Annual General Meeting and Conference in Winnipeg, April 23 and 24. Your feedback was amazing and the MAPC Board of Directors plans on incorporating many of your suggestions into next year's event. We value your input and carefully consider your praise as well as your concerns.

At the conclusion of our Annual General Meeting and Conference, we bid farewell to long-time Board Director, Doug Zintel. Doug brought a great energy to the Board table, and he will be missed. We wish him well on his future endeavours.

The MAPC Board of Directors attended the Annual Board Retreat in Gimli, MB in May to review our mandate and mission and begin planning for the upcoming school year. We also welcomed our newest MAPC Board Director, Milli Khan, from Winnipeg School Division. She is a great addition to our board and we all look forward to working with her. There was also considerable work completed on policy revisions and future projects. Among these will be the continuation on our Parental Engagement Survey, workshops, provincial tours, and communication strategies - as well as an extensive review of the Advocacy Project.

During this retreat, our board held a final discussion regarding our continued membership in the Canadian Home and School Federation (CHSF). It was decided that MAPC will not renew its membership with this organization. MAPC is exploring other partnerships on a regional and national basis and will inform membership about any developments in this area. As directed by the CHSF Executive, if MAPC is no longer a member in good standing, I am not permitted to continue in my role as Western Vice President with CHSF. I have resigned from this position, as per CHSF counsel.

Although the school year is winding down, our board is continuing to be very active with its work on external committees, stakeholder meetings, Western Alliance web conferencing, and a meeting with Manitoba's Minister of Education. As a board, we look forward to an exciting year and as always, look forward to meeting with you at your schools and in your communities.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Judith Cameron



Charitable Tax Receipts

Effective immediately, MAPC will no longer provide charitable tax receipts to parent groups for their fundraising efforts. We would direct you to contact your local school division office to enquire about its provision of this service instead.



Farewell

The MAPC Board of Directors would like to thank Jill Miner for her assistance as the Administrative Assistant for MAPC and wish her well in her new career.

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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Quote for the day...

"Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school. "

- Albert Einstein

Dates to Remember

May is Allergy Awareness, Hepatitis, Cystic Fibrosis, Multiple Sclerosis, Speech and Hearing Awareness, Community Living, and Asian Heritage Month

May 3—World Press Freedom Day
May 8—World Red Cross Day
May 9—Mother's Day
May 12—Manitoba Day
May 12—Canada Health Day
May 15—International Day of the Family
May 17—World Telecommunication Day
May 18—International Museum Day
May 22—International Day for Biological Diversity
May 24—Victoria Day
May 25—National Missing Children's Day
May 25—28—Aboriginal Awareness Week
May 31—World No Tobacco Day

June is ALS Awareness, Tourism, National Spina Bifida, Seniors', and Brain Injury Awareness Month

June 4—International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
June 5—World Environment
June 7—13—Tourism Week
June 8—Oceans Day
June 14—20—National Public Service Week
June 20—World Refugee Day
June 21—National Aboriginal Day
June 24—St. Jean Baptiste Day
June 26—International Day Against Drug Abuse
June 26—International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
June 27—Canadian Multiculturalism Day

July 01—Canada Day
July 9—Nunavut Day
July 11—World Population Day
July 17—National Parks Day
July 23—National Drowning Prevention Day

August is First Aid Month

August 02—Civic Holiday
August 09—International Day of World's Indigenous People
August 12—International Youth Day
August 23—International Day in Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

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

September 06—Labour Day
September 08—International Literacy Day
September 8—Rosh Hashanah
September 9—Eid al Fitr
September 09—Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day
September 10—Suicide Prevention Day
September 18—Yom Kippur
September 21—International Day of Peace
September 30—International Translation Day

MAPC Board Meeting Discussions

The following is a summary of points questioned and discussed at the March MAPC Board Directors' Meeting, regarding ***Ranking of Schools***, based on media attention given to the subject in Manitoba. If you have any further points you would like to add to this list, please contact the MAPC office by email info@mapc.mb.ca. Your points will be presented at the next regular Board meeting.

- Concern about the pitting of one school against another
- Profiles a school as being less than another
- Are the statistics accurate? You need to approach equal numbers in populations to be fair
- Communication process needs to be proactive so parents are made aware of how well their school is doing, not how poorly it compares to another
- Post secondary institutions rank themselves to demonstrate "bang for your buck"
- More emphasis needs to address finding the gaps that evaluations provide, but the impact is harmful when the process becomes competitive
- Universities look at the provincial/divisional marks to address programming needs for training
- Marks differ from school to school
- Schools and divisions must take the time to promote what is unique about what each school offers so parents can make an informed decision about where to send their child
- Is it possible to offer information to parents about programs offered at a particular school without making reference to grades and performance? It's a missing piece of the puzzle for some parents
- Are teachers rewarded for raising the profile of the school through improved grades and attendance? Some jurisdictions throughout the world can be referenced in this practice.
- Is international testing accurate? Are students really giving accurate results?
- The media is guilty of portraying any school rankings based solely on marks. It does not give the complete picture of what that school is all about.

Please note that the results of these discussions are presented to the Minister of Education in person on a semi-annual basis, to ensure that the concerns of parents are heard.

Did you know....

In 1963, MAPC (formerly the Home and School and Parent Teacher Federation of Manitoba) sent forth a resolution to the Premier of Manitoba, Duff Roblin, that future government buildings made provision for wheelchair ramps and railings to enable physically handicapped people to enter them more easily.

.....MAPC has been an advocate for inclusion for many years?

Annual General Meeting and Conference Review

At the MAPC Annual General Meeting and Conference on April 23 and 24, 2010, membership voted in favour of accepting the following resolutions and position statements:

- Transportation of Students
- Middle Years Report Cards
- Student Promotion Practices
- Equal Status for All Formally Recognized Parent Advisory Councils in Manitoba
- Recognition of Alternative Caregivers in Manitoba's Education System

To view these resolutions and position statements, please visit the MAPC website or call the MAPC office for a copy to be sent to you and your parent group.

Trustee Elections

The October 27 school board elections are a great opportunity for Manitoba parents to get involved in education—by voting or running as a candidate for school trustee. For more information, please visit <http://www.mbschoolboards.ca/aboutschoolboards/SchoolBoardElections.htm>



Did you know....

In 1963, membership with MAPC (formerly the Home and School and Parent Teacher Federation of Manitoba) was 50 cents?

.....MAPC has been sensitive to the financial challenges of its membership for many years?

The **Manitoba Film Classification Board** is requesting interested parents participate in an online survey as part of a review of its media awareness and education programs.

If you would like to participate, please visit:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MFCB>

Youth Health Survey

Several years ago, the Manitoba Regional Health Authorities (RHA) recognized a lack of local level data which could be used to address health planning in the province. As a result, they teamed with groups interested in health and created the Partners in Planning for Healthy Living. The group's purpose is to provide RHAs, schools, communities and school divisions with specific information on youth health, with a special focus on risk factors for chronic disease.

As a result, the Youth Health Survey was created from this initiative. Its intent is to provide baseline data on chronic disease risk factors for Manitoba youth in grades 9—12 and to evaluate the Grade 11 and 12 Active Healthy Lifestyles: Physical Education/ Health Education curricula.

If you would like to read this report, please view it online at:

<http://www.healthincommon.ca/wp-content/uploads/Youth-Health-Survey-Report-2009.pdf>

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendar!

2011 MAPC Annual General Meeting and Conference:
It's Our Time—Strengthening the Parental Voice in Education

Save the date and plan on attending on May 6 and 7, 2011 at the
Victoria Inn and Conference Centre, Winnipeg

A Meeting of the Minds

On February 23, 2010, MAPC initiated the beginning of a new dialogue between the Western Canadian School Council Associations of Canada. Included in this video conference dialogue were Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon. This opportunity provided a forum to exchange information and ideas regarding school councils in each province and territory.

The dialogue continued on June 4 with Yukon, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta participating. (*British Columbia was not available to attend*). Program information was shared and discussed regarding the MAPC Advocacy Project, Aboriginal and cultural diversity, funding, and also included provincial updates and upcoming projects.

These meetings are a valuable exchange of information and support for all participants and will assist MAPC in planning and developing further parental engagement initiatives for Manitoba. Further meetings are planned for the upcoming school year.

MAPC Board of Directors

Executive Board

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

Directors

Milli Khan
Marilyn Kolody
Sharon Machinski
Ethel Raine
Martin Simmons

Winnipeg Office

Naomi Kruse—Executive Director and Advocacy
Project Coordinator

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, 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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