

## A Message From the President

Winter Greetings!

**T**he school year is well underway and parent groups have been meeting all over Manitoba planning and practicing their role as stakeholders in education. MAPC has been involved in meetings with several education organizations in the last few months. There is a lot of chatter about divisional budgeting and funding announcements being made by the provincial government early in 2018. I encourage parents to engage in these budget planning meetings. Ask questions and voice concerns to your school principals, superintendents, school trustees, and your local MLAs. It's time to get engaged and help shape our kids' futures!

MAPC puts on some great events and workshops throughout the year. We are working on some final touches on a few right now. Check our [Facebook page](#) and website for updates.

Enjoy your school's holiday concerts!  
Boris Minkevich, MAPC President

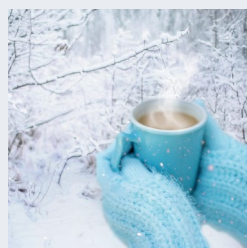


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## Chairpersons' Breakfast - Not Just for Chairperson

**D**id you know that any member of the PAC can attend the **Annual Chairpersons' Breakfast**? MAPC recognizes that the Chairperson may not always be available to attend, which is why we welcome other members to join us!



MAPC is very excited to announce that we will be partnering with [École Sage Creek](#) Parent Advisory Council this year, which has graciously offered us a gathering place in their beautiful, new building. Attending a MAPC breakfast is extremely valuable for parent groups, as it gives them the opportunity to connect with other parents, share ideas and learn how MAPC can support the PAC!

Don't forget, MAPC offers this annual event at **NO COST to parents** and we're pleased to include a **FREE continental breakfast** as well.

So save the date of **Saturday, February 3, 2018** and be sure to "like" the [Facebook page](#) to stay up to date on all the event details as they're released!

*...ask  
questions...voice  
concerns...it's time  
to get engaged and  
help shape our  
kids' futures...*

*Boris Minkevich,  
MAPC President*

## Dates to Remember

### Dates to Remember

#### **December**

December 1—World AIDS Day  
 December 2—International Day for the Abolition of Slavery  
 December 3—International Day of Disabled Persons  
 December 5—International Volunteer Day  
 December 6—International Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women  
 December 10—Human Rights Day  
 December 11—Anniversary of the Statute of Westminster  
 December 25—Christmas Day  
 December 26—Boxing Day  
 December 31—New Year's Eve

#### **January is Alzheimer Awareness, Hot Tea Month and Blood Donor Month**

January 01—New Year's Day  
 January 15—Humanitarian Day  
 January 16—Martin Luther King Day  
 January 21—27 - National School Choice Week  
 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 18 - 24—International Friendship Week  
 February 04—World Cancer Day  
 February 9—25 - Winter Olympics XXII  
 February 11 - 17 —Teacher Staff Appreciation Week (can vary)  
 February 23—National Stop Bullying Day  
 February 9 - 15 —Random Acts of Kindness Week  
 February 14—Valentine's Day  
 February 15—National Flag of Canada Day  
 February 19—Louis Riel Day

## 2018 YOUTH VIDEO CONTEST:

What Youth Need to Know About Cannabis

Create a 30-90 second video on what you think youth need to know about Cannabis and alternatives.

Cash prizes available.

Early Bird Prize to first ten entries  
 submitted before **March 1, 2018.**

Videos must be submitted by **April 20, 2018.**

Visit [whatyouneedtoknow.ca](http://whatyouneedtoknow.ca) for details.

## PACs - DID YOU KNOW...?

...that MAPC is [recognized in legislation](#) as the official representative of parent councils in all school divisions in Manitoba?

...that MAPC can come to your PAC meeting and [present on topics](#) designed to help improve your group's overall effectiveness?

...that MAPC can assist your PAC with constitution/policy development?

...that MAPC offers support to individuals that need assistance with [addressing concerns in school](#)?

MAPC exists to support the voice of Parent Advisory Councils - [email the office](#) or give us a call to find out more about [MAPC's resources](#)!

## OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU

*Are you passionate about improving the education and well-being of children in Manitoba??*

Consider applying to the MAPC Board of Directors!

Becoming a board director of MAPC provides you with an opportunity to take an active role in meaningful discussions and to represent MAPC and the parental voice on education committees. You'll also gain new skills and an increased understanding of PACs and their role in education in Manitoba.

For more information, please visit the [MAPC website](#) or contact the [office](#).

## WORTH CHECKING OUT

[Cannabis Talk Kit: Know How to Talk With Your Teen](#)

[Supporting Transgender & Gender Diverse Students in Manitoba Schools](#)

[Kidsgrief.ca - Talking With Kids About Dying & Death](#)

[Families and Schools Together](#)

## Sex Ed in School: Your Thoughts

**T**he [Sexuality Education Resource Centre](#) (SERC) wants to hear from parent councils about your views and interests in the area of sexuality education. Human Sexuality is a key learning outcome in the Manitoba Physical Education/Health Education Curriculum. Parents are encouraged to work together towards helping children to “develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need at various stages of their lives to make informed and health-enhancing decisions related to sexual behavior and reproductive health” (Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth n.d., p. 1).

SERC would like to extend an invitation to Parent Advisory Councils to learn about the interest and needs to support the parents in school communities.

Share your thoughts by taking part in a short survey.

[Click here to begin.](#) SERC

appreciates your participation!



## PARENT VOLUNTEERS:

How do we connect with parents in our community and encourage their involvement with the PAC?

~ An excerpt from the MAPC Resource Guide for Manitoba Parent Advisory Councils ~

### Where are all the bodies?

Parents can be found all over the place in many school communities. They are walking in the halls, dropping off their children, talking in the parking lot, assisting in the classrooms, and possibly thinking about becoming involved but are unsure about where and who they can speak to about helping out. Another possibility is that they do not know about the PAC or they do not realize their involvement is needed to assist in building a strong school community.

One idea is to approach these parents personally and start a conversation to introduce them to the idea of joining the PAC and help them to envision themselves working as a part of the group. The most common answer people give about why they don't volunteer is “Nobody asked me.” Face to face meetings are crucial!

Everyone has a skill that can be shared. Look around your school community to see who has the expertise or skills that can potentially benefit your group or project.

*Members can refer to section 1b (Starting or Refreshing a PAC), of the MAPC Resource Guide for Manitoba Parent Advisory Councils for more information.*

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
FROM THE MAPC  
BOARD of DIRECTORS  
AND STAFF!**

**Please note the MAPC office will be  
closed from December 25, 2017 to  
January 8, 2018.**

“If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be.”

Maya Angelou





Manitoba Association  
of Parent Councils

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We're on Facebook, Twitter  
and Pinterest - giving you an easier way to  
keep up with what's going on with parents  
and education in Manitoba.

Like us:  
[www.facebook.com/mapcmb](https://www.facebook.com/mapcmb)



February 11 - 17, 2018 is  
**Teacher and Staff  
Appreciation Week.**

How will your PAC celebrate and  
recognize the efforts of all staff  
in your school community?

Check out the  
**MAPC Pinterest Page** for  
some inspiration!

**Recognize the Work of a Manitoba Teacher!**

**D**o you know an outstanding teacher who is helping  
shape the lives of children? Nominate him or her for  
the **Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence!**  
Deadline is January 12, 2018. [Learn more here.](#)

## MAPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017 - 2018

### Executive Board

Boris Minkevich, President  
Nina Samu, Vice President  
Khalid Mahmood, Treasurer  
Maria T. Fernandes, Secretary  
Judith Cameron, Past President

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Brenda Brazeau  
Jennifer Mitchell  
Ethel Raine  
Arlene Reid  
Bernice Rempel

### Winnipeg Office

[Naomi Kruse](#), Executive Director and  
Advocacy Project Coordinator  
[Renee Ritchot](#), Administrative  
Assistant



## SAVE THE DATE!

The MAPC Annual General Meeting and  
Conference is **Saturday, May 5, 2018**  
at the Victoria Inn Hotel and  
Convention Centre, Winnipeg!

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