THE NORTHERNER

School Committee Conference Report Edition 2023





44th Annual School Committee Conference



Reconnecting, Learning and Moving Forward

April 25 – 27, 2023

Canad Inns Destination Centre Polo Park, 1405 St. Matthews Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

INTRODUCTION

Reconnecting, Learning and Moving Forward

The Board of Trustees of the Frontier School Division thanks you for your interest in the success of our schools, our teachers and, most of all, our children. This year we are moving away from the Pandemic although parts of it linger, but we were so excited to hold our 44th conference to celebrate past accomplishments and plan for future goals.

Our theme this year is "Reconnecting, Learning and Moving Forward" because as a Board we are dedicated to developing and maintaining caring, healthy, safe and inclusive schools. With that central concept in mind, we continue to encourage and foster the development of our staff, strengthening their skills so students can grow, learn and engage actively with their community.

The following three focus areas are the pillars of our strategic plan:

- Academics: every student will obtain the literacy and numeracy skills necessary to achieve success in their education journey
- Way of life: Indigenous perspectives, language and way of life will be an active aspect of each curriculum
- Wellness: every school will provide a caring, healthy, safe and inclusive learning and working environment for students, staff and community

These focus areas are intricately linked one with the other: one without the other two is not nearly as durable. For example, academic success encourages higher levels of wellness, increased understanding of way of life supports students' academic pursuits, and wellness helps students cope with the rigors of daily life. These pillars working in harmony and cooperation, and with the help and support of our staff, families and communities, help build strong relationships that connect and sustain our children. This will ultimately teach our children to walk in a good way.



"Seeing FSD move forward despite ongoing challenges is very inspiring!" "Very exciting things happening for FSD! Thank you to the Board for all your hard work in supporting staff and students."



Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, Deputy Minister Dana Rudy bringing greetings on behalf of Manitoba Education.



Board Chairperson Ballantyne welcoming speakers to the podium to address delegates.



Grand Chief Cathy Merrick bringing greetings to delegates on behalf of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.



Grand Chief Garrison Settee bringing greetings on behalf of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO).

OUR FOCUS ON ACADEMICS

We are focusing on equity of technology access, academic milestones and lifelong literacy for all students. We've brought in exciting new initiatives to encourage our students to learn better and participate fully.

In support of our ongoing pursuit if mastery in mathematics, our school division has created a Math Benchmark tool. It enhances our collective ability to support student achievement in math by providing consistent and reliable information to inform instructional planning and decision making in classrooms, schools and on a divisional level.

This is also the second year all schools have implemented an Early Years Evaluation tool for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. The results have helped our teachers design and implement interventions that meet the learning needs of the children in their classrooms. We compared last year's Language Communication to this year and discovered a 20% improvement compared to last year's 14% improvement. In Cognitive Skills we also saw a 28% improvement compared to last year's 14%. This means our teachers are designing and implementing better interventions and improving their scores in the areas that are leading indicators of reading achievement.

Another few other academic highlights include the Science Fair at Royal Aviation Museum in Winnipeg. We had 54 projects from 14 schools. Students Heath Everett, Hailee Marshall and Emmersyn de Matal went on to represent our Division at the Canada-Wide Science Fair. Many of our division's programs will benefit from our purchase of Caribou Lodge. The main purpose of the new building and land is to create a permanent home for the Engaged Learners program for students who struggle with anxiety, trauma, substance use and involvement with Youth Justice. The land will also support programming for our Outdoor Education and Land Based Learning programming. It will also serve as a place to host school field trips and staff for professional development opportunities.

"The board has been busy! It's great to see what they are doing about the issues we face daily."



Cold Lake School Grades 2 and Kindergarten Buddy Reading program



Frontier Mosakahiken School Kindergarten and High School students Buddy Reading program



Literacy small group instruction at Brochet School



Itinerant Resource teacher reading to students at Thicket Portage School



Engaged Learners Program students





Matheson Island School celebrating Pink Shirt Day

Stevenson Island School Outdoor learning

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OUR FOCUS ON WELLNESS

Each of our schools plays a role in achieving our wellness outcomes: to be respectful and caring communities; to support students and staff in achieving a healthy lifestyle; to support students and staff in achieving mental wellness; and to be safe and secure environments conducive to learning.

We recognize the ever-increasing challenges in the mental health of students has taken a toll. To bring greater focus to this focus area we created the position of Assistant Superintendent Student Services and Wellness starting August 1st of this year. The position means unified leadership to resource guidance counselling, Educational Assistants, Jordan's Principle and clinicians. We can't wait to see the positive impacts and how this role will strengthen the ways our Division supports students' mental wellness.

Our goals for student wellness included a focus on alignment across the division. We exercised that in multiple ways including hosting the Supporting the Spirit of Youth Conference this past fall. A first for the division, we brought together guidance councillors, clinicians, administration and mental wellness workers to share, learn and collaborate.

Student Services and Wellness continues to align practices and processes across the division as we work to improve our Response to Intervention practices for students.

We have also continued our relationship with the University of Manitoba Psychology department to bring School Psychology practicum students to several of our communities that do not regularly have this type of support. This year we were able to have approximately 40 of our students receive school psychology assessments in Area 5 through this partnership.











OUR FOCUS ON INDIGENOUS WAY OF LIFE

Frontier School Division is committed to ensuring that our students will know their history and identity, be proud of their heritage and way of life, and be able to communicate in their cultural language.

The Indigenous Way of Life programming continues to grow and gain momentum as we work to incorporate this focus area into all student activities and studies. This year was important for our Indigenous Language promotion and stabilization, as we launched the Frontier School Division's Transformative Strategy for Indigenous Languages. The comprehensive plan includes certificate programs, curriculum guides and resources, and student-centered language instruction like the Master Apprentice Program for Indigenous Language Vitality.

We are also happy to report our partnership with the University of Winnipeg to educate more language teachers is going well. Students taking the courses are finding they significantly strengthen their language teaching skills. On top of our great strides with indigenous language this year, our Indigenous Land-Based Education Team has built upon their capacity and programming through professional development certifications, learning form Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and developing strategies to grow pragmas for schools and communities. Their efforts have expanded the number of schools pursuing Land-Based Education, and they have added culture camps and day camps to their offerings.

We partnered with the Province of Manitoba to host the 19th annual Building Student Success with Indigenous Parents gathering in Winnipeg. The event was a big success, involving forty schools from seventeen different school divisions. The event promotes, celebrates and encourages the inclusion of Indigenous families in school programming. It was an incredible opportunity for Frontier School Division to learn and laugh with others, the way we are known in our province.

An exciting development in Ways of Knowing is that all our schools are now registered Legacy Schools through the Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund – and we are the only division in the province to do so. This means monthly resources to support classrooms in building awareness, education and connections through reconciliACTION and the Secret Path.



Tipi Teachings at D.R. Hamilton School



Grand Rapids School Cree Language Symposium



Berens River School



Drumming at West Lynn Heights School



Norway House Land-Based Gathering







Minegoziibe Anishinabe School Moose-Hunt Camp.





ART ON DISPLAY

Once again, the Frontier School Division Juried Art Show comes alive with colour, talent and expression.

Every year our students bring the best in drawing, painting, sculpting, crafts, and photography. This year, we returned to an inperson experience to the delight of all those in attendance.

We had a higher submission rate than ever and a fabulous turn out by our students at the event. It is a joy to see that the artistic spirit of our students is thriving. Congratulations to everyone who participated and those who assisted our students in sharing their creative talents. Students worked in a variety of mediums and were able to expertly express themselves through art while developing their skills in fine arts, technology and teamwork to create everything from drawings to animation. Students gain a sense of identity and selfesteem when they are successful in the Arts. The Board is happy to support several Fine Arts initiatives including the 22nd Annual Juried Art Show for all grade 7-12 and adult Education students.

Thanks to the following judges, who contributed their valuable expertise and time and produced written art critiques for all students:

Visual Arts

Pat Lazo, *Artistic Director of Graffiti Art Gallery*

Shawna Grapentine, Artist and Frontier Travelling Artist

Hans Arnold,

Award Winning Photographer & Frontier Travelling Artist

Doug Melnyk, Artist & Illustrator

Nancy Arnold, Photographer & Graphic Designer

Janelle Janz, Interdisciplinary Artist, Ceramics

WINNERS OF THE 2023 FRONTIER JURIED ART SHOW

"So many talented kids. A lovely way to showcase their work and validate them as artists!"

Drawing, Grades 7-8



ST STORM MENOW, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Street Lights"*



2ND KAITLYNN DIONNE, Leaf Rapids Education Centre, *"The School Garden"*





Drawing, Grades 9-10







2ND KAITIE (COLLEEN) TAIT, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Northern Lights"*



3 RD KAITIE (COLLEEN) TAIT, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Indigenous Woman"*

Drawing, Grades 11-12



ST MELANEY DUCHARME, Frontier Collegiate, *"Family Crest"*



2ND ELIZABETH JERRY, Frontier Collegiate, *"Self Portrait"*



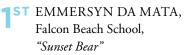
3 RD NATHANIEL HEAD, Frontier Mosakahiken School, *"Untitled"*

Mixed Media, Grades 7 & 8





2ND STORM MENOW, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Lighting"*



"It's wonderful seeing all the arts of every kind displayed. It's always amazing to see the students' work."



GABRIELE COLOMB-DUMAS, West Lynn Heights School, "Darkness"

Mixed Media, Grades 9 & 10



ST BELLE BOULETTE, Wanipigow School, *"Freak Show"*



ND DRAKE BOULETTE, Wanipigow School, "Every Child Matters"

Mixed Media, Grades 11 & 12



ST JASMIN RAVEN, Wanipigow School, *"Crystal Lake"*





2ND SHALEY BALDWIN, Wanipigow School, *"Jug Head"*



5 RD LUCAS HARDISTY, Wanipigow School, *"Spirit Lake"*



ST SHANIELLE (BECCA) MOORE, Jack River School, *"Splatoon"*



2ND JORDYN SMITH, Leaf Rapids Education Centre, *"Farmlands First Snow"*



3 RD DELLAREES SAWANASH, Berens River School, *"Turtle Island"*

Painting, Grades 9 & 10



1ST SAGE DUMAS, West Lynn Heights School, *"Love"*



ND LAYLA FLETT, Berens River School, *"Four Directions"*



JAYLYNN WILLIAMS, Cormorant Lake School, *"Cube"*

Painting, Grades 11 & 12



ST BIANCA HONEY DIONNE, Leaf Rapids Education Centre, *"Prey"*



ND NEVAEH COLOMB, West Lynn Heights School, *"Little Brightside Valley"*



PAUL GREY, Frontier Mosakahiken School, *"The Work of Art"*

Pottery/Sculpture, Grades 7 & 8



ST SHELBY COMPTON, Joseph H. Kerr School, *"The Nemian Lion"*



GAVIN DESSERE, Joseph H. Kerr School, *"Tizheruk"*



5 RD RODRIC MORRISON, Joseph H. Kerr School, *"Artso"*

Pottery/Sculpture, Grades 9 & 10



T ZACHORY OLSON, Peonan Point School, *"The Rose"*



2ND LILLY ANDERSON, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Floral Tumbler"*



3 RD KENNEDY SANDERSON, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, "Cat Tumbler"

Pottery/Sculpture, Grades 11 & 12



1ST AALIYAH QUESKEKAPOW, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Sky Dog"*



2ND KAYLEIGH CUSTER, Frontier Collegiate, *"Night & Day"*



RD KEELYN DISBROWE, Frontier Collegiate, *"Round Eye Vase"*

Crafts, Grades 7 & 8



ST LARISSA SANDERSON, Frontier Mosakahiken School, *"Red Wapikwahni Ribbon Skirt"*



2ND EMMERSYN DA MATA, Falcon Beach School, *"Manitoba Bison"*



3 RD CHRISTINA MCKAY, Frontier Mosakahiken School, *"Orange Dancing Sun Ribbon Skirt"*

Crafts, Grades 9 & 10



ST JOHN STARR, Berens River School, "Berens River Drum"



JAKE BIGHETTY, West Lynn Heights School, *"Bowl"*



RD CHANEL HART, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Flower Bag"*

Crafts, Grades 11 & 12



ST KENDRA MARTEL, West Lynn Heights School, *"Rose"*



2ND QUENTIN COLOMB, West Lynn Heights School, *"Tomahawk"*



RD KEARSTON ROSS, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Beaded Earrings"*

Digital Photography, Grades 7 & 8



ST ELI SEMPLE, Berens River School, *"A Butterfly in Spring"*



2ND CHAEL HARDISTY, Wanipigow School, *"Flowers"*



RD ZAIDY FELIX, Berens River School, *"Mesh"*

Digital Photography, Grades 9 & 10



ST AVA ALBERT, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Pink Flower"*



ND ROBERT GEORGE DUMAS, West Lynn Heights School, *"Flower"*



5 RD FELICIA FARROW PRONTEAU, West Lynn Heights School, *"Untitled"*

Digital Photography, Grades 11 & 12



ST DRE SINCLAIR-COLOMB, West Lynn Heights School, "Wheel"



AARON SHORTT, West Lynn Heights School, *"Carton"*

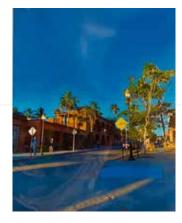


RD JAMAICA HIEBERT, West Lynn Heights School, *"Aqua Guattae"*

Enhanced Photography, Grades 7 & 8



ST MAX LINKLATER, Leaf Rapids Education Centre, *"Untitled"*



2ND GRAYDEN SIE-MERRITT, Falcon Beach School, *"Hotel California"*



3 RD GRAYDEN SIE-MERRITT, Falcon Beach School, *"Flower"*

Enhanced Photography, Grades 9 & 10



TESSA WALKER, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Leaf of Ice"*



ND HALLIE MENOW, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Dew Drops"*



RD NATHANIEL MENOW, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Eagle"*

Enhanced Photography, Grades 11 & 12



1ST ANDREW K MOORE, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Drip"*



2ND ALEXANDER LAUGHER, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Frost"*



3 RD ALEXIS ETTAWACAPPO, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, *"Eagle 2"*

Filmmaking, Grades 7 & 8



ST CLASS PROJECT, Barrows Junction School, *"Enough"*

Animation, Grades 7 & 8



ST MIDDLE YEARS STUDENT WORK, Lakefront School, *"Belle of Batoche"*

People's Choice Winner



ST SHANIELLE (BECCA) MOORE, Jack River School, *"Splatoon"*

"Love to see all the students grow in their love of art."





FRONTIER'S GOT TALENT

Our 11th annual student showcase, a fabulous celebration of our talented students

Frontier's Got Talent gives students the opportunity to showcase their talents. Open to all students of all ages, it's truly a celebration of the diversity and skill of our community. Participating in Frontier's Got Talent builds students' confidence and self-esteem. This year, performances were streamed live for online viewing.

Last fall, we went to schools requesting submissions of all forms of entertainment. Then our selection committee had the arduous task of choosing from incredible video submissions from across the division. With such a talented student body, we encourage everyone to keep practicing their talents and submit again next year!

"Anything with the students is the best to see! I enjoyed seeing where they are after the pandemic and how happy they are to show us their talents."

"This will always be the highlight of our conference. I hope we never lose sight of this." Student hosts Brady Courchene and Raqel Bjork, Grade 10 students from Wanipigow School, did an amazing job introducing the entertainment and keeping the program rolling with efficiency and humour. Thank you, Brady and Raqel!

We couldn't have done it without the hardworking students and staff who make up the Wanipigow Stage Crew.

The tradition continues, as we welcomed the Frontier Fiddlers, a pride of the Division and well-known across Manitoba! As usual, for every Frontier Fiddlers' performance a different group of students are selected from schools across the division to deliver an electrifying performance.





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RECOGNITION AND SERVICE AWARDS

Annual School Committee Conference

Frontier Achievement Award

The Frontier Achievement Award was established in 1998 to recognize and honour the achievements of those who have attended or graduated from a Frontier School or the Home Placement program. Criteria for the award includes commitment and excellence in their field beyond the scope of their role; contributions to positive role-modelling, and contributions made to the benefit of others.

The Frontier Achievement Award recipient for 2023 is **Linda Ballantyne**, Chairperson of the Frontier School Board and a member of the Grand Rapids School Committee.

Comments from those who supported Mrs. Ballantyne's nomination included:

"Linda is a well composed and spoken individual. She is always present, knowledgeable, positive, kind, caring and fair. She's always listening and giving people a chance to be heard."

"During assemblies and other school events, Linda is called upon to greet families and community members. Whether planned or impromptu, her words are always inspiring and encouraging. She sees a bright future in all of our children and always shares encouraging words of wisdom."



Linda Ballantyne, Board Chairperson accepting the 2023 Frontier Achievement Award as presented by Vice-Chairperson Marion Pearson.

Outstanding Contribution Award

This award is presented to a school committee member who is considered "outstanding". Criteria for the award includes: active participation on a school committee including regular attendance as well as holding executive duties and responsibilities, volunteering and participating in Area and Division activities, is responsive to community and school concerns, and is a long-serving member of their committee.

The recipient of the Award for Outstanding Contribution for School Committees for 2023 is Dorothy DeLaronde from the Philomene Chartrand School Committee.

Comments from those who supported Ms. DeLaronde's nomination included:

"Dorothy is quick to address any issues or concerns that are brought to her attention."

"Dorothy has proved to be a strong advocate for our families, especially the children".



Dorothy DeLaronde accepting the 2023 Award of Outstanding Contribution for School Committees as presented by Board Chairperson Linda Ballantyne.

Service Awards

In addition to the Outstanding Contribution Award presentation, long-serving School Committee members were presented with their service awards at the recognition lunch on April 26, 2023.

10 Years



Diana Genaille, Cormorant Lake School Committee

15 Years



Sandra Ducharme, Barrows Junction School Committee



Eric Olson, Peonan Point School Committee



Pearl Dumas, Lakefront School Committee

20 Years

30 Years

Acknowledged but not available for presentation: Isabel Ouskun, *Julie Lindal School Committee*

25 Years

Acknowledged but not available for presentation: Evelyn Dick, *Skownan School Committee* Melvina Moneyas, *Wanipigow School Committee*

Acknowledged but not available for presentation: Marie Nepinak, *Skownan School Committee* Charlotte Nepinak, *Skownan School Committee*

35 Years



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Delores Boulette, Wanipigow School Committee



Marie (Chilly) Reber, Cranberry Portage School Committee

Acknowledged but not available for presentation: Doreen Cook, *Brochet School Committee* Raymond Beardy, *Julie Lindal School Committee*

PRESENTATIONS

Valley of the Birdtail: An Indian reserve, a white town, and the road to reconciliation

Andrew Stobo Sniderman and Douglas Sanderson are the authors of Valley of the Birdtrail and our first keynote speakers of the conference. Andrew is a writer and lawyer and Rhodes who has written for the *New York Times* and the *Globe and Mail*. Douglas is Swampy Cree and serves as the Prichard Wilson Chair in Law and Public Policy at University of Toronto Faculty of Law. Both gentlemen have been involved in Canadian politics as policy advisors. Andrew and Douglas did a fabulous job as keynote speakers, discussing their book Valley of the Birdtrail. They spoke about lessons learned from the history of neighbouring schools in the town of Rossburn and Waywayseecappo First Nation, drawing on material for their acclaimed book. They led an excellent and informative conversation on the truths of our past and the path forward towards reconciliation. The duo delivered sensitive topics with respect and in sincerity that left the audience thinking and wanting to pick up the book!

"One of the best presentations ever. I felt encouraged to see there are smart people like those two advising on policy in Canadian Government. I look forward to reading the book."







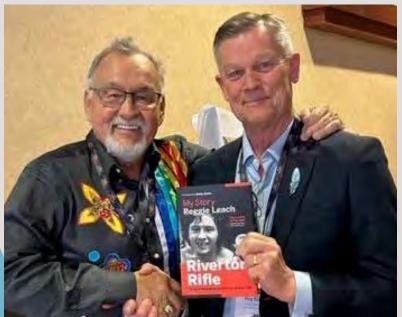
Reggie Leach

In his keynote presentation, NHL hockey legend and motivational speaker Reggie Leach motivated our group by sharing his incredible life story. From receiving the Order of Canada and the Order of Manitoba to being inducted into Philadelphia and Manitoba Sports Halls of Fame.

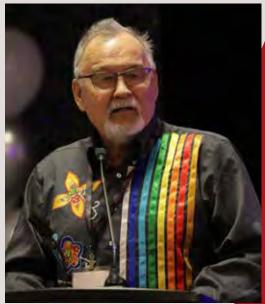
A proud member of Berens River First Nation in Manitoba, Reggie brings an interesting perspective having lived both a life connected to his home community and a celebrity life of being known as "The Rifle" and holding multiple NHL records that still stand today.

Our staff were taken by his sense of humour, power and humbleness as he spoke about his life story, finding yourself, and owning your mistakes. The consensus was he made Indigenous staff feel proud and more than a few people suggested bringing Reggie to speak to our students!









"This was a great presentation. I enjoyed it very much. It would be nice to have role models like Reggie doing presentation for our youth to help them make good choices!"

"It was good to know and meet a famous hockey player. He was funny and it was interesting to hear all about his life."

Master Jiggers

The Master Jiggers are a dance trio consisting of Ryan Richard, Ashley Campbell, and Felicia Morrisseau. Now based in Winnipeg. they all hail from rural Manitoba and have been dancing together for almost 20 years.

The Master Jiggers incorporate traditional Red River Jigging with modern-day variations of stepping and are accompanied by fiddle extraordinaire, Shawn Mousseau from Lake Manitoba First Nation.

Ryan, Ashley and Felicia's performance was energetic and entertaining from start to finish. The staff had a blast with the audience participation and found the jigging, costumes and overall performance delightful.

"This showcase was incredible. Showing the talent that these young people have. It was very encouraging and inspiring."













Youth Gangs and Drugs Presentation

Constable Christopher Joven has been an RCMP officer for over 16 years he has been posted all over the province. He is currently the RCMP D Division Diversity Officer.

Constables Joven used his background and his charisma to keep everyone engaged for an eyeopening and captivating presentation educating our staff on Youth Gangs. He spoke to the warning signs that youth may be joining a gang, the legal, social, physical and psychological consequences, and shared tools for youth to support their peers who want to leave a gang. He also emphasized the importance of professional help.

Then, Constable Joven switched gear to drugs. He educated us on the different types and categories of drugs, including the short- and long-term impacts of drug misuse and addiction. He also dove into the social and legal consequences of drug misuse.

Staff found the presentation extremely informative, and there was agreement that community interest is high in this subject and this information would serve students well.



"Very informative. I hope we can get a presentation like this for our schools and communities."

"Constable Joven was funny, and I enjoyed the experience. This was a good topic since a lot of communities are dealing with these situations."





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