



Fall 2013

MASS in Motion

Newsletter of the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents

Learning ~

Living ~

Leading

Summer Institute 2014 Preview

August 13 - 15, 2014
Elkhorn Resort

Simon Breakspear
Deeper Learning

Personalized Learning
Learning with Technology
Learning for Social Activism

MASS is set to embark on a learning journey into deeper learning with Simon Breakspear - starting with an ethical leadership evening in February connected to the COSL conference where he is presenting. Simon then returns in the summer for the MASS Summer Institute!

Simon Breakspear is the Head of Learning Strategy at Declara. He is recognised internationally as a leading thinker on the future of learning and educational innovation. Simon works to help school leaders to design and deliver high-impact strategies to enable deeper learning. He has worked with and spoken to leaders across Australia, New Zealand, the USA, the UK, Europe, Israel, Hong Kong and India.

As a passionate educator and innovation strategist, Simon works on systemic challenges in education reform and redesign. He has contributed to the OECD's PISA and Innovative Learning Environments projects. In 2012, Simon co-founded LearnShift India, a cross-sector network of leaders working to design innovative solutions for educational transformation in India. Simon is the co-author of "Talent Magnets" a highly practical and acclaimed white paper on attracting, retaining and developing quality teachers and the founder and curator of emerging educational leaders summits across APAC, which seek to incubate the next generation of innovative school leaders.

Excerpted from <http://www.simonbreakspear.com/about/>

MASS AGM 2014 Thompson

MASS has accepted the invitation of the Northern Region superintendents to hold our annual AGM in Thompson, on May 28 - 30. This will be the third time in recent history that we will be meeting in the North! Although it will be a bit of a trip, as our northern colleagues know so well, the bus ride when we went to Flin Flon in 2006 was a great part of the experience!

The extra day we gain on Thursday provides us with the opportunity to experience first hand the culture camp experience and to deepen our learning in aboriginal education, one of the main focus areas in our MASS priorities for 2013 - 2014.

A very short SurveyMonkey survey will be sent to all members in the near future in order to get a sense of how many will be attending and to determine hotel and transportation needs. Your feedback will make the job of the planning committee much easier when they meet in Thompson on November 27.

Thanks in advance!



Mark Your Calendars



Looking Ahead to 2014

Leadership Development: Education Finance

Thursday Evening and Friday,
January 16 - 17, 2014
Canad Inns Polo Park

Ethical Leadership Cohort with Simon Breakspear

Wednesday evening,
February 12, 2014
Canad Inns Polo Park

Spring MASS Members Meet

Hilton Airport
Friday, March 7, 2014

MASS AGM

May 28 - 30, 2014

Thompson, Manitoba

Hosted by the
Northern Superintendents!

Summer Institute 2014 with Simon Breakspear

DEEPER LEARNING

August 13-15, 2014
Elkhorn Resort

Fall MASS Members Meet

Friday, October 3, 2014
Venue TBA

Education for ACTION IV: Mental Health and Wellness

Thursday and Friday,
November 13 - 14, 2014
Canad Inns Polo Park



Reg Klassen
President
MASS

Welcome to the fall edition of the MASS in Motion newsletter. Included in this issue are our newly formatted Mass Priorities for 2013 – 2014. Both our MASS Priorities and our Organizational Priorities will be presented in a single page, easy-to-read format, designed to be clear and concise. The MASS Priorities as formatted on Page 3 will be our public document which we share with our numerous education partners. The Organizational Priorities as listed on Page 4 will be an internal document that informs the work of the MASS Executive and MASS committees, on matters that relate to our own organization.

Our overarching priorities of Equity and Quality are connected on many levels through a myriad of complex relationships. When we begin a dialogue about equity or quality the other concept invariably enters the conversation. Three areas of focus emerged during the MASS Executive planning session: Aboriginal Education, Mental Health and Wellness, Early Childhood Education. Essential and Deeper Learning is something that we will strive for across all of our focus areas.

MASS priorities are developed by the executive with reference to the priorities identified by MASS members at our AGM. Planning sessions at Elkhorn in the summer and subsequent executive meetings allowed us this year to follow a new process to arrive at the priorities as presented here. It is important that we have a smaller number of attainable priorities and that we focus our efforts to see them materialize. I know our priorities are not new and similar goals are part of the discussion in every school division. It is my hope what MASS does as an organization will strengthen and add to these local discussions. When we look back at the end of this year, I anticipate we will be able to recognize and measure the gains we have made towards achieving higher levels of equity and quality for students in Manitoba.

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MASS in Motion

MASS Professional Learning 2013 - 2014

One of the points of pride for me in MASS is our longstanding and unwavering commitment to learning together as professionals.

Our **MASS Summer Institute** with Pasi Sahlberg, including our first ever follow-up day on Monday for our educational partners, was very well received.

It will be obvious to many that Pasi's discussion of equity and how it relates to quality has found its way directly into our Priorities for the coming year.

MASS is also partnering with MSBA and the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg to do a major research study on equity in the public school system. This turns out to be very timely as a follow up to our time with Pasi.

The broad attendance at both events, including our Deputy Minister and our ADMs, is leading to meaningful discussions between MASS and our educational partners on equity and quality.

I believe that the understandings that we gained this summer will bring us together in advocating for universal high quality public education for all of our children.

Another example of partnership is this year's **Culturally Proficient Leadership Institute**. Although this was not originally planned, it did present itself to us as a promising alternative for our November Conference.

We believe that bringing together over 300 educators and leaders from other sectors to deepen our common learning in this critical area will also have lasting effects on the educational and societal environment of our entire province.

It will also serve to further our call to action in recent MASS position papers, including Aboriginal Education and Mental

Health. Insights into LGBTQ perspectives will also further our aims of safer and healthier schools for all of our children and will support systems in implementation of Bill 18.

On January 16 - 17 we will roll out our second Leadership Development Module - **Leadership in Financial Resources** with Brian O'Leary, Wayne Shimizu and Mike Borgfjord. A module on Leadership in the Political Realm is planned for spring.

Our **Ethical Leadership Cohort** continues with a unique opportunity in February. Simon Breakspear, who will be presenting at COSL and then doing our Summer Institute next summer, has agreed to facilitate a session for us on the Wednesday evening leading up to COSL - February 12. This will be a chance to meet the person we will be working with in advance, in a small group, to consider the ethical underpinnings of our advocacy for deeper learning. Those wishing to see more of Simon can attend his COSL session the next day.

March 7 is our next **Members Meet** day back at the Hilton. Our priorities call for us to use this day for emergent issues and programs that are of current interest and importance to our members.

And of course, the unique learning opportunities that will be presented as we hold our **AGM in Thompson** this year on May 28 - 30! More information to follow.



Ken Klassen
Executive Director
MASS

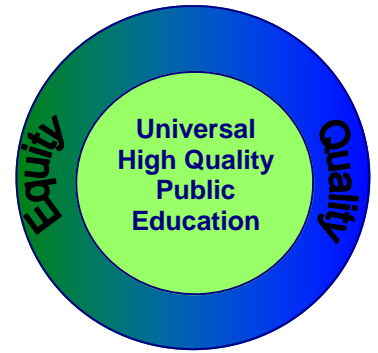


2013 - 2014 MASS Priorities

Universal High Quality Public Education

Equity Quality

- **Aboriginal Education**
- **Mental Health and Wellness**
- **Early Childhood Education**
- **Essential Learnings - Deeper Learning**



Our commitment to Equity includes combating poverty and disadvantage, promoting inclusion and embracing diversity:

- Host an intensive summer institute and broader one day session for superintendents and educational leaders with Pasi Sahlberg, to explore the relationship between quality of education and equity in both the broader society and the public school system.
- Partner with the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg and MSBA to survey Manitoba superintendents on current divisional policies, procedures and practices which promote equity.
- Develop a position paper on educational finance and funding with a call to action on equity.
- Support members in the implementation of Anti-bullying legislation, including Gay-straight alliances.

Our commitment to Quality includes building efficacy and capacity for teaching, learning and leading:

- Publish a MASS position paper on *Essential Learnings* with a call to action in this area.
- Facilitate a discussion by our membership of current trends in Math education, with the help of discussion papers and other resources.
- Publish a spring MASS Journal with the theme of Deeper Learning, with articles from the field in the strands of personalized learning, learning with technology, and teaching for social activism.
- Plan the next summer institute on the theme of Deeper Learning, with strands of personalized learning, learning with technology, and teaching for social activism.

Equity and Quality: Areas of Focus

Aboriginal Education

- Co-sponsor a Culturally Proficient Leadership Institute in November for MASS members and all of our educational partners.
- Incorporate a cross-cultural learning experience in the MASS AGM by holding it in the north in May, 2014.
- Collaborate with MSBA on three sessions over two years which address a comprehensive set of learnings in aboriginal culture and education.
- Support the work of the MASS Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee as it pursues its renewed mandate to address the call to action in the MASS position paper, *Transforming Manitoba Public Education: A View to the Future*.

Mental Health and Wellness

- Partner with Manitoba Education and work with a Program Planning Group from a wide variety of partner organizations to plan Education for ACTION 4: Mental Health and Wellness for our Children and Youth.
- Take leadership on the Oversight Committee for Children and Youth Mental Health (OOCYMH) and work with the MASS Mental Health Committee to address the call to action in the MASS position paper, *Mental Health Framework for Students*.

Early Childhood Education

- Support the work of the MASS Early Childhood Education committee as they review the MASS position paper, *Early Childhood Education and Care*, and propose next steps for action and collaboration in this area.

MASS Organizational Priorities 2013 - 2014

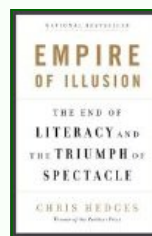
- The Executive Committee will work towards a three year MASS Action Plan which is directly linked to priorities identified by members at our Annual General Meeting.
- The Professional Learning Committee will work towards a three year comprehensive professional learning plan, which will be directly linked to the MASS Action Plan.
- The Executive Committee and the Professional Learning Committee will review the purpose, format, content and frequency of member sessions, in order to make them more responsive to members' needs.
- The Legislation and Policy Committee will establish a multi-year rotation for review of all MASS policies and by-laws to ensure that current policy and practice are aligned and that appropriate policies are in place for MASS practices and procedures.
- The Public Relations and Membership Services Committee will commission a comprehensive study of MASS communications, including an audit of current practices and tools and recommendations for a multi-year plan going forward.
- The Executive Director will hold regular meetings with regional chairpersons and will establish a rotation of attendance at regional meetings by the executive director and representatives of the executive.
- The Executive Director will set up mechanisms to facilitate timely and effective two-way communication between the Executive Committee and the regional committees.
- The Professional Learning Committee will plan at least one ethical leadership cohort in the coming year, which will correspond with the theme of ethical leadership for deeper learning.
- The Leadership Development Committee will plan and facilitate two leadership modules - Educational Finance and a Board Relations / Political Aspects.
- The Executive Director and the Research Committee will collect educational plans from different jurisdictions and use them at the executive level for Big Idea discussions.
- The Public Relations and Membership Services Committee will select a group of books for the MASS book club that address an upcoming professional learning session, such as Deeper Learning and/or Mental Health and Wellness. MASS book club books will be posted to the MASS web site with short reviews written by members.
- The Executive Director and the Public Relations and Membership Services Committee will align the theme for the spring MASS Journal to that of our summer institute – Deeper Learning.
- The Public Relations and Membership Services Committee will facilitate a separate members' session on contractual / legal issues for all members.
- The Executive Director and the Public Relations and Membership Services will survey our members on member services through the regional chairperson / regional meetings.
- The Executive Director and the Regional Chairs will survey members on current salaries and benefits and will update the information on the MASS portal.
- The Executive Director will contact retired members to establish an up-to-date directory for use in distribution of MASS information, the MASS Journal and invitations to MASS events.

MASS Book Club Selections for 2013 - 2014

Stratosphere: Integrating Technology, Pedagogy, and Change Knowledge



Michael Fullan

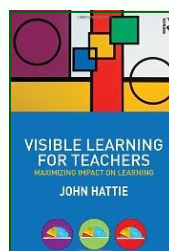
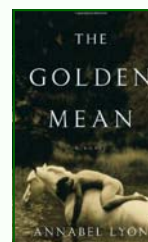


Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle

Chris Hedges

The Golden Mean

Annabel Lyon

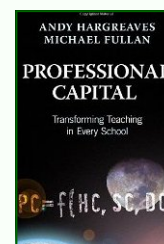


Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximizing Impact on Learning

John Hattie

Professional Capital: Transforming Teaching in Every School

Andy Hargreaves, Michael Fullan

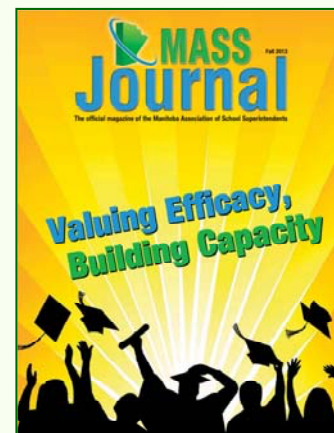


MASS Fall Journal

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Articles by:

- Janet Martell
- Leanne Peters
- Ray Derksen
- Brian O'Leary,
- Rebecca Chartrand
- Rick Ardies
- Celia Caetano-Gomes
- Jason Drysdale
- Tanis Pshebniski
- Gary Babiuk
- Linda Connor
- Linda Modzinski
- Pamela Reichert



Extra copies available - contact Amber at the MASS office.

MASS Office: tel: 204.487.7972 fax: 204.487.7974
375 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2V 0N3

Ken Klassen Executive Director ken.klassen@7oaks.org
 Amber Samson Executive Assistant amber.samson@7oaks.org