



Newsletter of the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents

Learning

Living

Leading

Visit our MASS Website - NEW 1 stop for all MASS Information

You will find:

- News feed with recent MASS news
- Events calendar - easily synced with your personal calendar
- Live Twitter feed - follow MASS on Twitter
- Members Only area with password you can personalize



The MASS web site is now set up to allow us to easily add information to the site - we hope to keep this site up-to-date daily and will add all MASS communications as they come out. In the coming year, all MASS information will be added to the site.

The site is easily accessed from any mobile device - just put a shortcut on your screen, save your password, and all MASS information is just a click away.

We would like to make this page as current and as useful as possible. We welcome your submissions : ken.klassen@7oaks.org and/or amber.samson@7oaks.org

- Authentic pictures for the slide show on the home page
- Educational quotes for the slide show on the home page
- Divisional news and events that would be of interest to MASS colleagues
- Tweets and retweets from members
- Suggestions for additional features, information, items that will make this site more useful for you

Mark Your Calendars



MASS 2015 - 2016

Tuesday, August 11, 2015 **Elkhorn Resort**
 Mass Executive Planning Session 10:30 - 4:00 p.m.
 New Members Session 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
 Executive / New Members Dinner 6:00 p.m. start

Summer Institute 2015

Elkhorn Resort
Wednesday to Friday, August 12 - 14, 2015

Friday, September 11, 2015 **Executive Meeting**

MASS Ethical Leadership Cohort
Thursday, October 1, 2015

MASS Members Meet
Friday, October 2, 2015

Canad Inns Polo Park

Friday, October 16, 2015 **Executive Meeting**

MASS November Conference

Holiday Inn Winnipeg Airport West
Wednesday to Friday, November 4 - 6, 2015

SSAAM / MSBA / MASS Day

Brandon
Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Friday, December 11, 2015 **Executive Meeting**

Leadership Development Module
New Members Session

Canad Inns Polo Park
Thursday and Friday, January 14 - 15, 2016

Friday, February 5, 2015 **Executive Meeting**

MASS Members Meet

Venue TBA
Friday, March 4, 2015

Wednesday, March 16, 2015 **Executive Meeting**

Leadership Development Module
New Members Session

Venue TBA
Thursday and Friday, April 21 - 22, 2016

MASS AGM and Recognition Banquet

Thursday, May 19, 2016
Victoria Inn, Winnipeg

Friday, April 15, 2015 **Executive Meeting**

Looking Ahead....

Summer Institute 2016

Hecla Lakeview Resort
Wednesday to Friday, August 17 - 19, 2016

Friday, June 10, 2015 **Executive Meeting**

Summer Institute 2015

Elkhorn Resort
August 12 - 14, 2015

ACTing Within an Equity Framework

Özlem Sensoy



Full Program now available at:

Mass.mb.ca/Member Area/Calendar of Events/Summer Institute 2015 Program

MASS November Conference

Holiday Inn
Winnipeg Airport West
November 4 - 6, 2015

Enabling Learning Environments

Plenary Sessions:

Randall Fielding
Jennifer Katz

Concurrent Sessions:

Featuring architects, researchers, school and divisional staff, students



- Designing schools for learning
- Outdoor Classrooms
- Naturescape Playgrounds
- Balanced classroom design/furnishing

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 Amber Samson Executive Assistant

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From the President



Barb Isaak
Outgoing President
MASS

Welcome to the spring edition of the 'MASS in Motion newsletter! The opportunity to serve as your President this past year has been a privilege. Conversations with our colleagues across Canada have provided numerous opportunities to share examples of the strong leadership that MASS is providing in Manitoba. People comment regularly on the collaborative nature of our organization, and the way in which we work together with our educational partners.

An organization such as this does not thrive without leadership and commitment by its members. Thank – you to the Executive for their commitment to representing their region at our meetings. Those conversations provided the opportunity to discuss issues that affect all of our students. Thanks also for the leadership role played on MASS committees and through representation on provincial committees. Ken, Amber and Jan have all been working diligently throughout the year to support our organization and its members.

When reflecting on the year, there are numerous highlights that come to mind:

The Education for ACTION: Mental Health and Wellness conference held in November 2014. The fourth in a series of similarly structured conferences, it brought together over 700 participants from multiple and diverse sectors. The collaborative opportunities which have grown from the event provide another way in which to better support our students.

Collaboration between MSBA, MASS, MASBO, and the Aboriginal Education Directorate facilitated a three day Aboriginal Education Leadership Institute for senior level divisional teams. This Institute provided another opportunity to engage in conversation and learning to better support our Aboriginal students.

Continued strong membership for our MASS Leadership Development Series. The leadership sessions for MASS members led by our members is another way we are able to support our collective professional learning.

Organizational support of our priorities of Aboriginal education, mental health and wellness and early childhood education. Through attendance at professional learning opportunities, and continued work in local divisions, the support for our students continues to be enhanced.

It is exciting to know that the excellent work of our members will continue to have an impact on public education in Manitoba in the years ahead. In reviewing the year, I believe that there is cause for celebration, as we have made excellent progress in moving our organizational priorities forward during the past ten months.

“An organization such as this does not thrive without leadership and commitment by its members.”

MASS in Motion Focused Action in 2014 - 2015

At our MASS AGM in Thompson last May, MASS members strongly endorsed a long term commitment to our identified focus areas of:

- Aboriginal Education,
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Early Childhood Education

Our MASS Priorities document now outlines these three focus areas and our core beliefs about learning - and leading of learning.

MASS collaborated with MSBA and MASBO to host a three-day **Aboriginal Education Leadership Institute** which brought together teams made up of trustees, superintendents and directors and secretary treasurers from most Manitoba school divisions. Excellent keynote speakers, including Darren McKee, Murray Sinclair and Sherry Peden challenged us to action - **“Now that we have heard what we have heard - what are We going to do about it?”** In our debriefing of this event, all partners agreed that we made significant progress together. The rich data we received from the World Café will serve as a valuable base for further collaboration, including a follow up to last year's **Emamawi** forum which is already being planned for May 28/29, for the Aboriginal Education Committees from partner organizations. MASS has also been asked by the Minister to participate in an **anti-racism initiative** which is in the planning process.

Our November **Educating for ACTION: Mental Health and Wellness** conference was fully sold out - with almost 650 adults and 90 students participating. Our international, national and local speakers presented a very rich program related to mental

health in schools. We think this conference could have been a game changing event we continue to advocate for the recommendations put forward in our MASS position paper.

We were excited to hear the long awaited recent provincial budget announcements with a long term commitment to implementation of a Children and Youth Mental Health Strategy by the government. MASS will continue to show strong leadership in this area, with the goal of making significant strides in improving mental health promotion and intervention in our schools.

Our **Early Childhood Education Committee** will be presenting a draft of their renewed position paper at our AGM this year, with the hopes of publishing this paper after our MASS Members Meet in October. This paper has been updated to include a list of recommendations, similar to our Call to Action and Recommendations in our Aboriginal Education and Mental Health position papers. In the interim, there have been promising announcements from the provincial government in this area, which we hope to see expanded through our continued advocacy.

As educational leaders, MASS has also been asked to take an important role in the work of the recently established Student Achievement Support Unit, both on the advisory committee and the working group.

I believe that our long term commitment and our focus on these important areas, is leading to significant change for the students in our care.



Ken Klassen
Executive Director
MASS

MASS Says “Farewell”

Robert Chartrand
Paul Cuthbert
Ray Derksen
Kathy Fidlerchuk
Denis Granger
Neill Johnson
Wayne Leckie
Tanis Pshebniski
Jack Sullivan
Ron Weston

MASS Welcomes New Members 2015 - 2016

Mathew Gustafson

Assistant Superintendent - Brandon SD

Scott Hill

Assistant Superintendent - Evergreen SD

Paul Holden

President - MITT

Darren Kinden

Area 4 Superintendent - Frontier SD

Mary-Anne Ploshynsky

Superintendent - Rolling River SD

Leslie Eblie Trudel

Assistant Superintendent - Sunrise SD

Dan Warde

Assistant Superintendent - Mountain View SD

MASS Congratulates Members in New Positions

Reg Klassen

Superintendent - Frontier SD

Roza Gray

Superintendent - Evergreen SD

Donna Davidson

Superintendent - Mountain View SD

MASS Congratulates Members With Service Anniversaries:

15 Years

Ted Fransen
Roza Gray

10 Years

Hazen Barrett
Celia Caetano-Gomes
David Swanson
Joan Trubyk

5 Years

Angele Bartlett
Krista Curry
René Déquier
Jane Friesen
Brian Gouriluk
Elaine Lochhead
Michele Polinuk
Jason Young

Apologies in advance for any missed names.
Appointments or moves after
May 12 are not mentioned above.

Your New President

It is with tremendous humility, excitement and pride that I commence my term as President of MASS. Our Association has proven to be a strong learning organization that is committed to ‘Equity and Quality’ as evidenced by the many accomplishments of MASS members, committees and the work of past and present executives.

I would like to highlight our three major Focus Areas for 2014-2015, as I believe we have been instrumental in charting a course and leading positive change in the province of Manitoba: Aboriginal Education, Mental Health and Wellness, and Early Childhood Education position papers have been published and have become critical resources for not only our membership but for our educational partners. I would like to personally thank the membership for contributing to these important documents, either through writing, dialogue, critique, or through sharing these documents with others.

Manitoba will face many challenges in the year ahead as we forge a journey where PCAP and PISA seem to be perceived as the lone measure for evaluating the success or failures of our system. We must not discount the valuable information that can be taken from these assessments but we must work together to ensure that we provide balance and perspective and bring humility to this discussion. We need to ensure the primary discussion point is the learning needed by our children in order to be successful in the 21st Century and that their achievement is not be defined by a singular measure.

MASS serves a role in promoting a conversation about the ends of education and is actively involved in a serious dialogue about what Manitoba values in public education. Neil Postman asserted, “Sameness is the enemy of not only vitality but of excellence, for where there are few or no differences, in genetic structure, in language, in art – it is not possible to develop robust standards of excellence.” We must work together to ensure that simple measures do not define who we are as Manitobans and as citizens of a global community. This requires our membership to ask tough questions, challenge underlying assumptions, ask for evidence and to be clear about what we want our children to be able to do, experience and offer to their local and the global communities.

Reform is a paradoxical journey, a journey filled with struggles and we must work tirelessly to ensure that a system of high accountability does not create a fear of making mistakes or put a damper on creativity and innovation. We need ambitious and sustained effort and strong partnerships if we are to fulfill our dream of “Equity and Quality” for all. Angela Duckworth stated, “True learning is fun, exhilarating and gratifying – but it is also daunting, exhausting and sometimes discouraging.” Education now is harder on teachers, harder on children, and more challenging for youth growing up in the world of today. Mental health, early childhood education and Aboriginal education are critical components of this dialogue and there is much work to be done in the coming years.

The MASS Book club has offered us many interesting and exciting perspectives to explore together and align with our areas of focus. I encourage each of us to read these books and to contribute to this serious conversation about how we can continue to shape public education in Manitoba to ensure that we follow our own path and not make the same mistakes of others. Niels Bohr stated, “The opposite of a correct statement is an incorrect statement, but the opposite of a profound truth is another profound truth.” Our work together will help us all find more profound truths and ultimately create a stronger public education system. I look forward to uncovering more profound truths with each and every one of you in the coming year.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as President of MASS.
I am truly honoured and humbled by this opportunity.



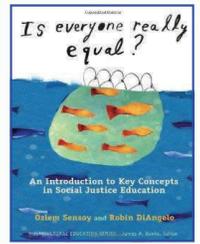
Mike Borgfjord
President Elect

“Niels Bohr stated, ‘The opposite of a correct statement is an incorrect statement, but the opposite of a profound truth is another profound truth.’

Our work together will help us all find more profound truths and ultimately create a stronger public education system.”

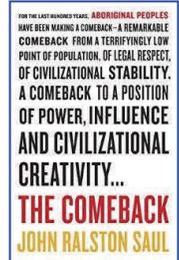
This practical handbook will introduce readers to social justice education, providing tools for developing "critical social justice literacy" and for taking action towards a more just society. Accessible to students from high school through graduate school, this book offers a collection of detailed and engaging explanations of key concepts in social justice education, including critical thinking, privilege, and White supremacy. Based on extensive experience in a range of settings in the United States and Canada, the authors address the most common stumbling blocks to understanding social justice. They provide recognizable examples, scenarios, and vignettes illustrating these concepts.

This unique resource has many user-friendly features, including "definition boxes" for key terms, "stop boxes" to remind readers of previously explained ideas, "perspective check boxes" to draw attention to alternative standpoints, a glossary, and a chapter responding to the most common rebuttals encountered when leading discussions on concepts in critical social justice. There are discussion questions and extension activities at the end of each chapter, and an appendix designed to lend pedagogical support

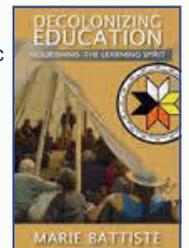


Once again, John Ralston Saul presents the story of Canada's past so that we may better understand its present – and imagine a better future. Historic moments are always uncomfortable, Saul writes in this impassioned argument, calling on all of us to embrace and support the comeback of Aboriginal peoples. This, he says, is the great issue of our time – the most important missing piece in the building of Canada. The events that began late in 2012 with the Idle No More movement were not just a rough patch in Aboriginal relations with the rest of Canada. What is happening today between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals is not about guilt or sympathy or failure or romanticization of the past. It is about citizens' rights. It is about rebuilding relationships that were central to the creation of Canada. These relationships are just as important to its continued existence. The centrality of Aboriginal issues and peoples has the potential to open up a more creative way of imagining ourselves and a more honest narrative for Canada.

Wide in scope but piercing in detail, The Comeback presents a powerful portrait of modern Aboriginal life in Canada, in contrast with the perceived failings so often portrayed in politics and in media. Saul illustrates his arguments by compiling a remarkable selection of letters, speeches and writings by Aboriginal leaders and thinkers, showcasing the extraordinarily rich, moving and stable indigenous point of view across the centuries.

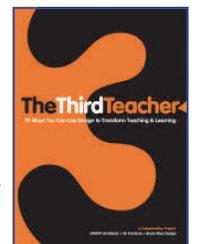


Drawing on treaties, international law, the work of other Indigenous scholars, and especially personal experiences, Marie Battiste documents the nature of Eurocentric models of education, and their devastating impacts on Indigenous knowledge. Chronicling the negative consequences of forced assimilation and the failure of current educational policies to bolster the social and economic conditions of Aboriginal populations, Battiste proposes a new model of education. She argues that the preservation of Aboriginal knowledge is an Aboriginal right and a right preserved by the many treaties with First Nations. Current educational policies must undergo substantive reform. Central to this process is the rejection of the racism inherent to colonial systems of education, and the repositioning of Indigenous humanities, sciences, and languages as vital fields of knowledge. Battiste suggests the urgency for this reform lies in the social, technological, and economic challenges facing society today, and the need for a revitalized knowledge system which incorporates both Indigenous and Eurocentric thinking. The new model she advocates is based on her experiences growing up in a Mi'kmaw community, and the decades she has spent as a teacher, activist, and university scholar.



Created by an international team of architects and designers concerned about our failing education system, The Third Teacher explores the critical link between the school environment and how children learn, and offers 79 practical design ideas, both great and small, to guide reader's efforts to improve our schools. Written for anyone who has school-age children in their life, from educators and education decision-makers to parents and community activists, this book is intended to ignite a blaze of discussion and initiative about environment as an essential element of learning. Including a wealth of interviews, facts, statistics, and stories from experts in a wide range of fields, this book is a how-to guide to be used to connect with the many organizations, individuals, and ideas dedicated to innovating and improving teaching and learning.

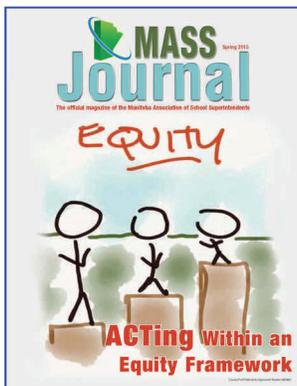
Contributors include children's singer and advocate Raffi, author and creativity consultant Sir Ken Robinson, scientist and environmentalist David Suzuki, inventor James Dyson, and other experts who are working to create fresh solutions to problems and create a new blueprint for the future of education.



MASS Spring Journal

Articles by:

- Özlem Sensoy
- Coralie Bryant
- Ken Klassen
- Meg Crane
- John Wiens
- Simone Laplante
- Sheila Giesbrecht
- Emily Grafton
- Elaine Lochhead
- Tim De Ruyck
- Reg Klassen



Read Online at: Mass.mb.ca/Resources/Mass-Journal

Request additional hard copies from: amber.samson@7oaks.org

In his travels around the world since the publication of his bestseller Start with Why, Simon Sinek noticed that some teams were able to trust each other so deeply that they would literally put their lives on the line for each other. Other teams, no matter what incentives were offered, were doomed to infighting, fragmentation and failure. Why? The answer became clear during a conversation with a Marine Corps general. "Officers eat last," he said.

Sinek watched as the most junior Marines ate first, while the most senior Marines took their place at the back of the line. What's symbolic in the chow hall is deadly serious on the battlefield: great leaders sacrifice their own comfort—even their own survival—for the good of those in their care. This principle has been true since the earliest tribes of hunters and gatherers. It's not a management theory; it's biology. Our brains and bodies evolved to help us find food, shelter, mates and especially safety. We've always lived in a dangerous world, facing predators and enemies at every turn. We thrived only when we felt safe among our group.

Our biology hasn't changed in fifty thousand years, but our environment certainly has. Today's workplaces tend to be full of cynicism, paranoia and self-interest. But the best organizations foster trust and cooperation because their leaders build what Sinek calls a Circle of Safety that separates the security inside the team from the challenges outside. The Circle of Safety leads to stable, adaptive, confident teams, where everyone feels they belong and all energies are devoted to facing the common enemy and seizing big opportunities. But without a Circle of Safety, we end up with office politics, silos and runaway self-interest. And the whole organization suffers.

