



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

THE ADVOCATE



Welcome to the February 28, 2023 issue of *The Advocate*!

In this edition, you'll find two board chair messages, information about the PSBAA upcoming events, updated information on Election Readiness, a good news story from Parkland School Division, grant opportunities, the Word Search contest and more!



The next edition of *The Advocate* will be published on March 15, 2023.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board Chair Message	2-4
Upcoming Events	5
Election Readiness	6
A Good News Story	7-8
Other News	9
Grants	10
Word Search	11
Well Said!	12
Contact Us	12



A Warm Welcome to PSBAA's Newest Member Board: Peace River School Division!

We are very pleased to officially welcome our newest public school board member to the Association – [Peace River School Division](#).

We believe Public School Boards are stronger together and that the collective voices of all our members is impactful. The Association is honored to represent and advocate for our board members on the key issues facing K-12 education in Alberta. We now have twenty-seven members, and we couldn't be happier to represent each board on their unique needs.

[Peace River School Division](#) believes it takes a village to raise a child and they take great pride in their divisions national and provincial award-winning online engagement strategies that empower school communities to make their schools event better. The division focuses on engaging their students, staff and the local public to ensure everyone can grow and learn together. ([Please read our press release here](#))

Peace River School Division offers high quality educational opportunities and a broad range of extracurricular and sports programs to 3000 students in 21 schools within their division. The division covers 13,000 square kilometers, serves 11 communities and transports approximately 2847 students per day in their division and the two neighbouring school divisions. To say they cover a large geographic area is an understatement!

We once again welcome the Peace River School Division to the Association and look forward to working together over the coming months.

BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

[Sturgeon Public Schools](#) is proud to partner with leading post-secondary institutions to provide our students with meaningful pathways to higher education. Our students have the opportunity to take college-level courses at institutions such as Lakeland College, Olds College, Northern Gateway College and NAIT, earning both high school and post-secondary credits in the comfort of their own schools.

We are excited to announce a new partnership with NAIT in the field of Advanced Welding. Our [Sturgeon Composite High School](#) is known for its innovative [career and technology programming](#). This partnership will allow students to take online theory classes and engage in practical lab days at NAIT, earning credit for the Advanced Welding program as well as fulfilling high school graduation requirements.

In Spring 2023, we will be offering 15 students the opportunity to participate in the NAIT welding partnership and extending the invitation to neighbouring school divisions such as St. Albert Public Schools. This Advanced welding partnership with NAIT is the first of its kind and we are equally excited to be sharing in this endeavor with our neighbours to ensure the program's success and bring career readiness to more Alberta students.

Our new partnership with NAIT is the latest example of Sturgeon Public's commitment to working with local businesses and communities to ensure education is relevant, while meeting the needs of families in the Heartland. We continue to grow our [Registered Apprenticeship Program](#), Green Certificate and work placement options in addition to expanding Dual Credit options. We are proud of the hard work our teachers are doing to equip students with the skills to be successful in trades, the workforce and in further studies. Innovation and collaboration are key to our mission of providing students with the best possible education.



BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE



A major outcome in the Wild Rose School Division 2022-26 Education Plan is focused on ensuring ALL of our student's progress in their learning and well being. With approximately 10% of our student population being Indigenous, we believe that a key strategy to improving the learning and wellbeing of our students is to be more purposeful in promoting Truth and Reconciliation in our classrooms and in our communities.

As such, our education plan includes a number of initiatives related to our commitment to Action #63 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action:

- Implement Kindergarten to Grade Twelve curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history, and the history and legacy of residential schools.
- Share information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history.
- Build student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect.
- Identifying teacher-training needs relating to the above.

Three key strategies in our plan that are aimed at addressing Action #63 include:

- A new Indigenous Education program aimed at providing Indigenous cultural and education support to all our students and staff through in-school Elder and Indigenous education expertise. This includes the provision of elbow-to-elbow support from Elders and two Indigenous Education Specialists to our teachers and in our classrooms.
- The purchase of two Indigenous Peoples Atlases of Canada giant floor maps. These maps show the locations of Indigenous communities, residential schools, reserves and more. Rather than showing political borders, they show Canada according to Indigenous language groups, Treaty territories, Nunangat and communities with significant First Nations, Metis and Inuit populations . They highlight stories about the movement and relocation of Indigenous peoples which have shaped the nation we live in today. We are using these maps to support both teachers and students in their understanding of historical events and current contextual realities that have impacted First Nations, Metis and Inuit people and to accurately reflect the history of this country to ensure that all members of the WRSD community are educated based on historical and current truths.
- Organizing and hosting an Indigenous Education conference on April 12, 2023 in Drayton Valley. The theme of this conference is "Identity" and participants will be given opportunities to collaborate and share their thoughts on how our perspectives and understanding of Identity can impact student wellbeing and their learning. We are excited to have some highly respected speakers support us on this day.
 - * Dr. Sean Lessard who is from Montreal Cree Nation and an award winning writer, international speaker and faculty member of the University of Alberta.
 - * Sharon Morin who is the third youngest daughter of the late Canadian Senator Thelma Chalifoux and currently serves as the Program Coordinator for the Women of the Metis Nation nationally. She spent most of her youth participating in many Métis political and cultural activities throughout the prairie provinces.
 - * Michael Redhead Champagne is an Inineu public speaker, writer, community advocate and on-screen personality, his storytelling connects communities across North America and around the world. Michael's commitment to action and solutions comes from his experiences growing up in Winnipeg's North End, his identity as a member of Shamattawa First Nation and his connection to the child welfare system.

A Women's Panel will feature:

- Inuksuk Mackay who was born and raised in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories has roots in Nunavut's Kivalliq Region. Inuksuk grew up both on the land and in the city. The presence of such diverse extremes in her upbringing cultivated a unique esthetic that shows through in her art. Inuksuk is an Inuk multidisciplinary artist, writer, performer, photographer, and filmmaker. She has appeared in a collection of films created in the North, as well as written and directed several films, including the short film, "Little Man", which won the People's Choice Award at the 2017 Dead North Film Festival and went on to play at festivals nationally and internationally.

- Jill Ladoucer who is originally from Kebaowek First Nations in Kipawa, Quebec. She is of Algonquin descent and is a mother of 6. She currently resides in Tomahawk with her veteran husband and their children. Jill is passionate about her culture and has a small business in her home where she makes traditional moccasins, mittens, and mukluks that have shipped all over Canada, the United States, and as far as Thailand, Australia, and Scotland. We are proud to have Jill teaching in a Wild Rose School currently.
- Lisa Cruikshank who is Metis and is guided by the values of reciprocity and relationality. Lisa is proud to lead the work in Métis Education & Lifelong Learning while working alongside the Métis community. Lisa has worked in the K-12 system for over 20 years in various capacities such as: Elementary Educator, Indigenous Education Consultant, Provincial Curriculum Developer, and is currently the Director for Métis Education and Lifelong learning at Rupertsland Institute.

School administrators and staff representing each of our 17 schools will be in attendance for this day of learning. Parents, school council members, community members and municipal leaders will also be invited.

We recognize that truth must be acknowledged in order to move forward in reconciliation. We are proud to be making these purposeful steps towards achieving our goal to improve the learning and wellbeing of ALL our students.



Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada Education Kit and Floor Map

Royal Canadian Geographical Society has worked collaboratively with several Indigenous and ally educators and organizations from across Canada to create the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada Education Kit and Floor Map.

Rather than political borders, this map shows the locations of Indigenous communities, residential schools, reserves and more. The map shows Canada as being broken up into Indigenous language groups rather than provinces to represent the precolonial movements of indigenous peoples and provide imperative education to all. This resource will assist students and teachers alike in understanding the past, present, and future of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

PSBAA has received a copy of this kit and floor map, which is 10.7m (35.1') x 7.9m (25.92'), to be utilized by our members for free. The kit contains a floor map, teacher's guide and hard copies of the learning activities.

For more information on the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada, please visit:

<https://cangeoeducation.ca/en/maps/indigenous-peoples-atlas-of-canada>

To request to utilize this map at your school please contact Troy: please contact Troy:

executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Public School Boards' Council (PSBC) meetings

- April 13-14, 2023**

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in west Edmonton for the April 2023 PSBC.

The April PSBC kicks off on Thursday, April 13, 2023, with registration at 8 a.m. and the Professional Learning Day to follow.

We will start the day with a presentation on the Things You Didn't Know of the Indian Act from Clarice Anderson and Sheila Williams. The presentation will walk us through some of the long-standing laws First Nation, Métis and Inuit faced and still encounter effects of today.

We will continue the day discussing Everything You Wanted To Know About Superintendent Performance Reviews and SLQ's with Brian Callaghan. Followed by a presentation from Sharon Friesen on Teacher and Professional Staff Recruitment and Retention for Rural and Northern Alberta.

Our special guest for the Thursday night Dinner and Lecture will be Janet Brown who will share her insights and provide you with exclusive information on her election predictions that you won't hear anywhere else. Janet has been polling and creating market research for over 25 years and she will definitely have some interesting predictions to share with us all before the provincial election in late May.

For more information, to book your room or to register please [CLICK HERE!](#)

PSBAA's Spring General Assembly

Thursday June 1st to Saturday June 3rd, 2023

Calgary, AB

Save these dates for PSBAA's Spring General Assembly!

[CLICK HERE to reserve your room at the Westin or to Register!](#)

Book your hotel room for the PSBAA August 2023 PSBC Meeting in Medicine Hat!

- August 9-11, 2023**

The PSBAA room block is now open for reservations for the August 2023 PSBC at the Medicine Hat Lodge [Click here](#) to reserve your room block now - the room block fills quickly! You can also phone the Medicine Hat Lodge at 403-529-2222 to make your reservation. You'll need to identify yourself as a 2023 PSBAA member, provide the dates and quote the reference number - 080823PUB to receive the room block rate.



Check the Events page on the PSBAA website for more information.

PSBAA's 2023 Fall Conference and AGM

- October 18 - 20, 2023**

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in west Edmonton

Save these dates for PSBAA's Fall Events!

More information coming soon!

APRIL PSBC: GUEST SPEAKERS



Clarice Anderson is a proud member of Saddle Lake Cree Nation. She holds a Master's degree in Land Based Education and has worked in the field of education for 19 years in various capacities. Clarice is passionate and committed to building capacity in Indigenous education. She currently works with Edmonton Public Schools as a Supervisor in Curriculum and Learning Supports.



Sheila Williams is a Denesuline woman, mother and educator originally from Cold Lake First Nations, Treaty 6 Territory. She is a First Nations, Métis and Inuit consultant with EPSB and has been a teacher with EPSB for 13 years. Sheila has also been with the Alberta Teachers Association as a Professional Development facilitator for 8 years. Sheila has reclaimed her connection to her roots through ceremony and community.



GUEST SPEAKER - PROFESSIONAL LEARNING - APRIL 13

Sharon Friesen, Ph.D. - Professor at University of Calgary

Dr. Sharon Friesen is a Professor at the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary. Her research interests include the ways in which K-12 educational structures, curriculum and learning need to be reinvented for a knowledge/learning society.

[Click here to read more about Sharon Friesen](#)

Election Readiness Engagement

On February 21, 2023 we launched, the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) elections campaign for the Alberta provincial election that is slated for May 29, 2023. The PSBAA membership, Political Relations committee and the Board of Directors developed a non-partisan campaign to advocate for the five (5) key issues identified by our members at earlier Public School Boards' Council (PSBC) meetings.

The campaign will focus on funding, cross ministry support, charter/private schools, mental health and transportation. We will leverage digital media including social media, email and our website to engage media and constituents to vote for the party who they believe will support their key priorities.

The PSBAA will be posting content across key social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram, so make sure to follow us to see all our upcoming posts! For those that don't use social media often, we have some great "how to" videos in the members section of our website for extra support. We are asking our members to share the content we post onto their social networks to increase the messages reach and extend awareness of the key issues we are advocating for. Members can expect to see social media posts at 1pm every Monday and Thursday starting on February 21. If there is a holiday expect to see Mondays post scheduled for Tuesday.

Our members will also be receiving exclusive access to tailored opinionated articles and emails that the PSBAA will be sending to candidates, the board and school trustees. We will also be pitching to news outlet editors to request they incorporate our members key issues in their publication election coverage. So, keep an eye out in your inbox for more exciting, tailored content in the coming months!

To keep our members up to date with everything election- related, we have also added a new page to our website where all election related information will be stored for easy access. [Please click here](#) to check out our new web page, and login to the [member portal](#) for campaign messages, templates and other important information to stay up to date with our member advocacy efforts during the election period.

Please join our [private Facebook group](#) for any internal discussions required during the elections campaign period between members. Please note, that all posts for sharing will be on our public Facebook page.

For our non members please stay tuned to our [public elections page](#) for more information.

We look forward to the coming months of campaigning for what matters to our members!



A GOOD NEWS STORY: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND KNOWLEDGE

Through a unique partnership in Treaty No. 8 Territory with the [Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation](#), Fort Chipewyan Métis and Mikisew Cree First Nation, [Parkland School Division \(PSD\)](#) assumed operation of [Athabasca Delta Community School](#) (ADCS) in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta, on September 1, 2022. The Division proudly serves as the Interim Education Authority on a provisional basis while the three Nations work to form a Community Education Authority, at which time they will take over school operations.

Since assuming operations at the school, PSD has overseen enrolment, finances, programming, school infrastructure, staffing, staff housing, technology and communication upgrades and various support services for students. The Division also continues to build relationships within the local community for the benefit of students and families.

“Knowledge sharing is very powerful. It allows generations to meet, connect and learn from one another, and ultimately keep Indigenous traditions and culture alive,” stated Dean Bernard, Division Principal of Northern & Indigenous Relations.

“When you talk to our staff, which ranges from first year teachers to seasoned veterans looking for an educational adventure, they all can’t stop talking about how welcoming the community has made

us feel. It is evident that we’re all working together, always with the best interests of the students at heart. We have been creating unique opportunities for staff from PSD South to venture north. We’ve been able to listen and learn from the Elders in Fort Chipewyan and tap into their vast knowledge and experience while we are the interim education authority.”

Programming Highlights

Land-based Learning

This environmentally-focused learning is derived from the expertise and knowledge held by members of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Fort Chipewyan Métis and Mikisew Cree First Nation. Some of the land-based learning experiences at ADCS include:

- A chance to learn some of the skills needed to tan a moose hide and a demonstration of a moose head dissection, as taught by an Elder/Knowledge Keeper.
- Support in going to Moose Camp and having the opportunity to learn about trapping during the winter season.
- Dissection of muskrats and a talk about employment opportunities with Parks Canada after graduation.



Language

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 9 have the opportunity to learn two different Indigenous languages at the school: Cree and Dene. The school employs a Cree teacher as well as a Dene Instructor & Family Liaison who heads up the Dene language/cultural program. Students get an immersive experience where the local and traditional languages are spoken during language classes, but also in various learning exercises and activities around the school. Elders and community members frequent the classes to share their knowledge and experiences.

High School

PSD created a schedule that allows more flexibility and additional courses, including Career and Technology woodworking. Students also have access to the wealth of courses available through Connections For Learning. These changes led to the addition of Grade 10's at the school with the intention of offering a full K-12 experience within the next two years.

Services for Students

Helping Hands Project

The Division received a one-year grant for Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) from Alberta Health Services. The funding will support the

continuation of the Helping Hands project, which promotes emotional, mental and social well-being for children and families in Fort Chipewyan.

Food Security

The ADCS food program provides all students with a healthy breakfast, lunch and two snacks. The program is funded by Alberta Education, tuition agreements and support received from the Breakfast Clubs of Canada and Suncor Energy. The school employs two cooks to prepare the food, which is primarily sourced from the local K'ai Tailé Market.

Apple Schools

The Division received a maintenance grant from Apple Schools to support comprehensive school health at ADCS. Our Wellness Facilitator, ADCS Administration and School Health Lead will collaborate to promote health through the development and implementation of a comprehensive school health action plan.

Developing Partnerships

PSD has a partnership with community service providers to support students requiring speech, occupational and physical therapy. Collaboration between school-based and community supports strengthens the services available to students.

Do you have a good news story from your school jurisdiction that you would like to share with PSBAA member boards? Please let us know by emailing communications@public-schools.ab.ca.

PSBAA SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS



It's not too late to nominate a group or an individual!

Please check your email for the special recognition awards package distributed today, which includes the nomination forms.

The nomination forms are also available on the [member resources](#) section of the PSBAA website.

The Deadline for nominations are Friday, March 31, 2023



INDIGENOUS CANADA ONLINE COURSE

Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta that explores the different histories and contemporary points of view of Indigenous Peoples living in Canada. From an Indigenous standpoint, this course explores complex experiences Indigenous Peoples face today from a historical and critical perspective, highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations.

Topics for the 12 lessons include the fur trade and other exchange relationships, land claims and environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts and alliances, Indigenous political activism, and contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions.

[Click here for more information!](#)

PSBAA CONSULTANT



February Spotlight: Joni Avram

Joni helps leaders, educators, and advocates improve internal and external communication and team dynamics. Offering customized approaches, she applies behavioural science

methods with marketing to help organizations improve their relevance, credibility, and impact. A lawyer by training, Joni has deep roots in marketing and public relations and holds an MSc. in Behavioural Science from the London School of Economics. She established [Cause & Effect Marketing](#) in 2006 to support people who wanted to be a force for good.

You can contact Joni at 403-617-5496 or by email at joni@causeeffect.ca.

ASBA Award Deadlines

Alberta School Boards' Association's (ASBA) award deadlines are fast approaching. Get your nominations in soon!

ASBA encourages all boards to consider submitting nominations for students and teachers. All information instructing how to submit nominations can be found on the ASBA's website.

- Lieutenant Governor Student Awards: March 17
- Edwin Parr Teacher Award: March 17
- Friends of Education Award: March 17

Please send any questions or comments forward to:

awards@asba.ab.ca

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

PSBAA will post career opportunity ads on the website and in *The Advocate* for members free of charge. Check out the current career opportunities on the [PSBAA website](#). Email a PDF copy of your career ad to Troy Tait at: executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca

GRANTS

Electric Vehicles for Municipalities: rebate deadline March 31, 2023

Since 2019, we have provided rebates to local governments across Alberta for the purchase of electric vehicles. We can help you transition your community's vehicle fleet toward more fuel-efficient options, such as battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

The program supports the purchase of passenger vehicles (like the Chevrolet Bolt hatchback, Ford F-150 Lightning pickup truck and Kia Niro SUV), medium and heavy-duty trucks (such as refuse trucks), and non-road vehicles (such as ice resurfacers and grounds utility vehicles).

There is still time to apply for a rebate and accelerate your community's transition to EVs. Visit our website <https://mccac.ca/programs/electric-vehicles-for-municipalities-program> to learn more about the program and get started on an Expression of Interest today.

GET STARTED



Fueling Futures Grant

The Enbridge Fueling Futures program provides support to organizations in the communities in Canada where Enbridge operates.

Enbridge invests in the following focus areas:

- 1) safe communities, including local safety initiatives and organizations that help make communities safer places to live, safety planning and education, and humanitarian aid;
- 2) vibrant communities, including empowering people to reach their full potential, building potential in youth, honoring Indigenous peoples and cultures, and celebrating culture and community; and
- 3) sustainable communities, including environmental education, habitat conservation and remediation, and supporting energy transition.

Applications may be submitted at any time. Visit the Enbridge website to review the eligibility criteria and apply online here:

APPLY FOR FUNDING!



Minister's Youth Council Recruitment

Do you know a junior or senior high school student who is passionate about their education? Wants to make a positive impact in their school and gain valuable experience? Well, we have some great information for you!

The Alberta Education Minister has created a Youth Council to include students as key partners in the education system. The program offers students the unique opportunity to share input and perspectives on provincial education programs and initiatives.

Recruitment for the 2023/2024 Ministers Youth Council has begun, and they are looking for 40 junior and senior high school students from across Alberta, between the ages of 14 and 19 and representing diverse interests, identities, backgrounds and perspectives, to join next year's council. Of the 40 council members, they will accept up to eight returning members and at least 32 new members.

The opportunity for students to join the Youth Council is priceless and will provide the opportunity to make a real impact on Alberta's education system, build their leadership skills and leave a legacy that will last for generations to come.

The deadline for students to apply is March 24, 2023. For more information, please visit alberta.ca/student-engagement.aspx. On the website you will also find a printable flyer that can be displayed and promoted within schools.

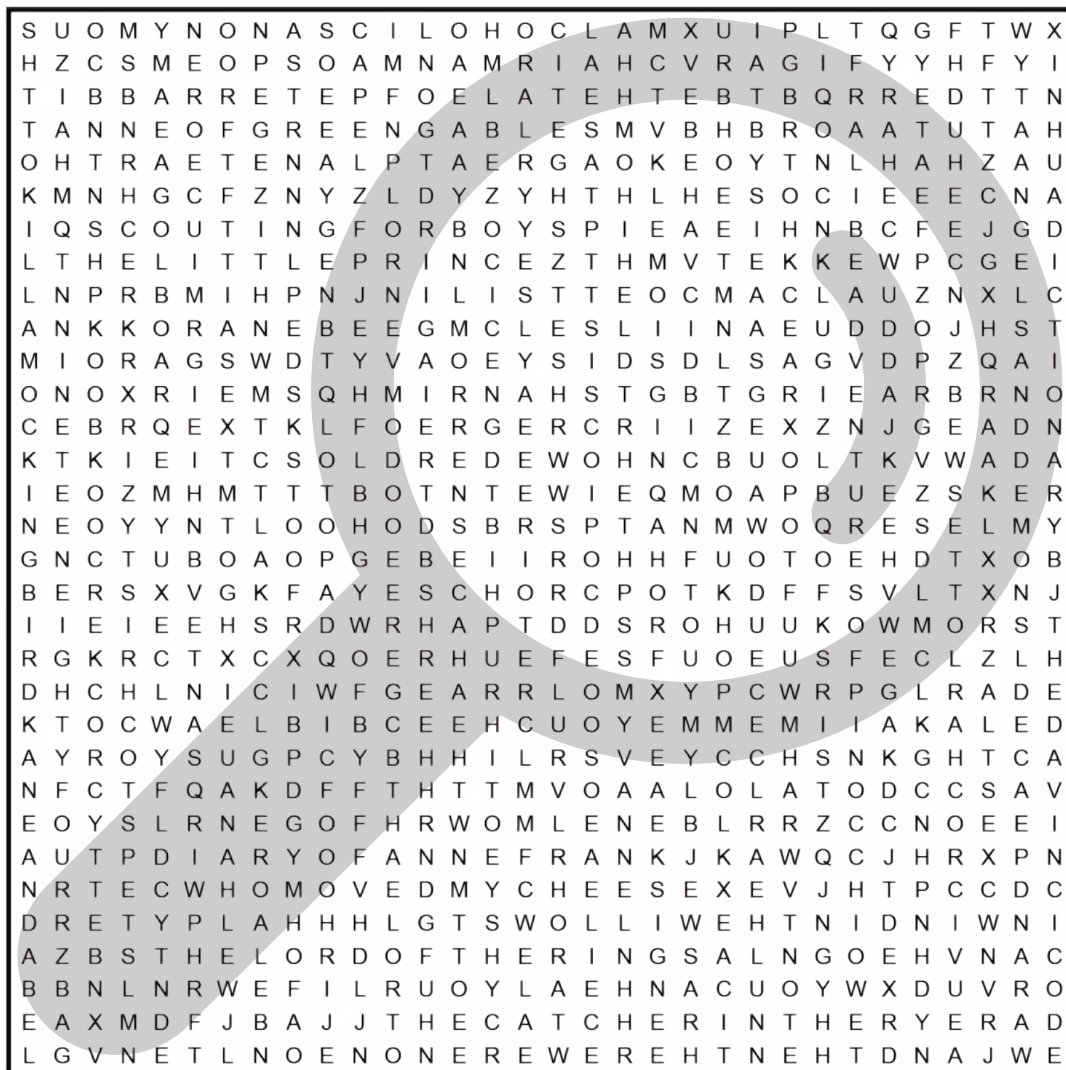
If you have questions, please contact Sarah Spennath, Engagement Consultant, Strategic Engagement Branch, at edc.studentengagement@gov.ab.ca or 780-289-1352 (toll-free by first dialing 310 0000).



WORD SEARCH: 50 FAMOUS BOOKS

A MESSAGE TO GARCIA
A TALE OF TWO CITIES
ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
AND THEN THERE WERE NONE
ANGELS AND DEMONS
ANNE OF GREEN GABLES
ARTICLES OF MAO ZEDONG
BETTY CROCKER COOKBOOK
BIBLE
BLACK BEAUTY
BOOK OF MORMON

CHAIRMAN MAOS POEMS
CHARLOTTE'S WEB
DIARY OF ANNE FRANK
DREAM OF THE RED CHAMBER
GONE WITH THE WIND
GREAT PLANET EARTH
HARRY POTTER
KANE AND ABEL
KORAN
LOVE STORY
LOVE YOU FOREVER



THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE
THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT
THE THORN BIRDS
THINK AND GROW RICH
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
VALLEY OF THE DOLLS
WAR AND PEACE
WEBSTERS DICTIONARY
WHO MOVED MY CHEESE
WIND IN THE WILLOWS
XINHUA DICTIONARY
YOU CAN HEAL YOUR LIFE

NINETEEN EIGHTY FOUR
REVOLT OF MAMIE STOVER
ROGETS THESAURUS
SCOUTING FOR BOYS
SHE
STEPS TO CHRIST
THE ALCHEMIST
THE CATCHER IN THE RYE
THE CELESTINE PROPHECY
THE DA VINCI CODE
THE GODFATHER
THE HOBBIT
THE LITTLE PRINCE
THE LITTLE RED BOOK



PSBAA WORD SEARCH

The first person who completes the puzzle with all words accurately identified and emails to Troy Tait at (executivedirector@public-schools.ab.ca) will receive a PSBAA branded stainless steel water bottle, which is awarded exclusively to our puzzle prize winners! (Those who have won a prize in this contest during the past six months are not eligible.)

“WELL SAID!”

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision, the ability to direct individual accomplishments towards organizational objectives.”

~ ANDREW CARNEGIE



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

STORY IDEA? FEEDBACK?

We welcome your story ideas and suggestions!

CONTACT US

Please email communications@public-schools.ab.ca.

Address #105, 10470 176 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5S 1L3

ONLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROVIDE PUBLIC EDUCATION®