

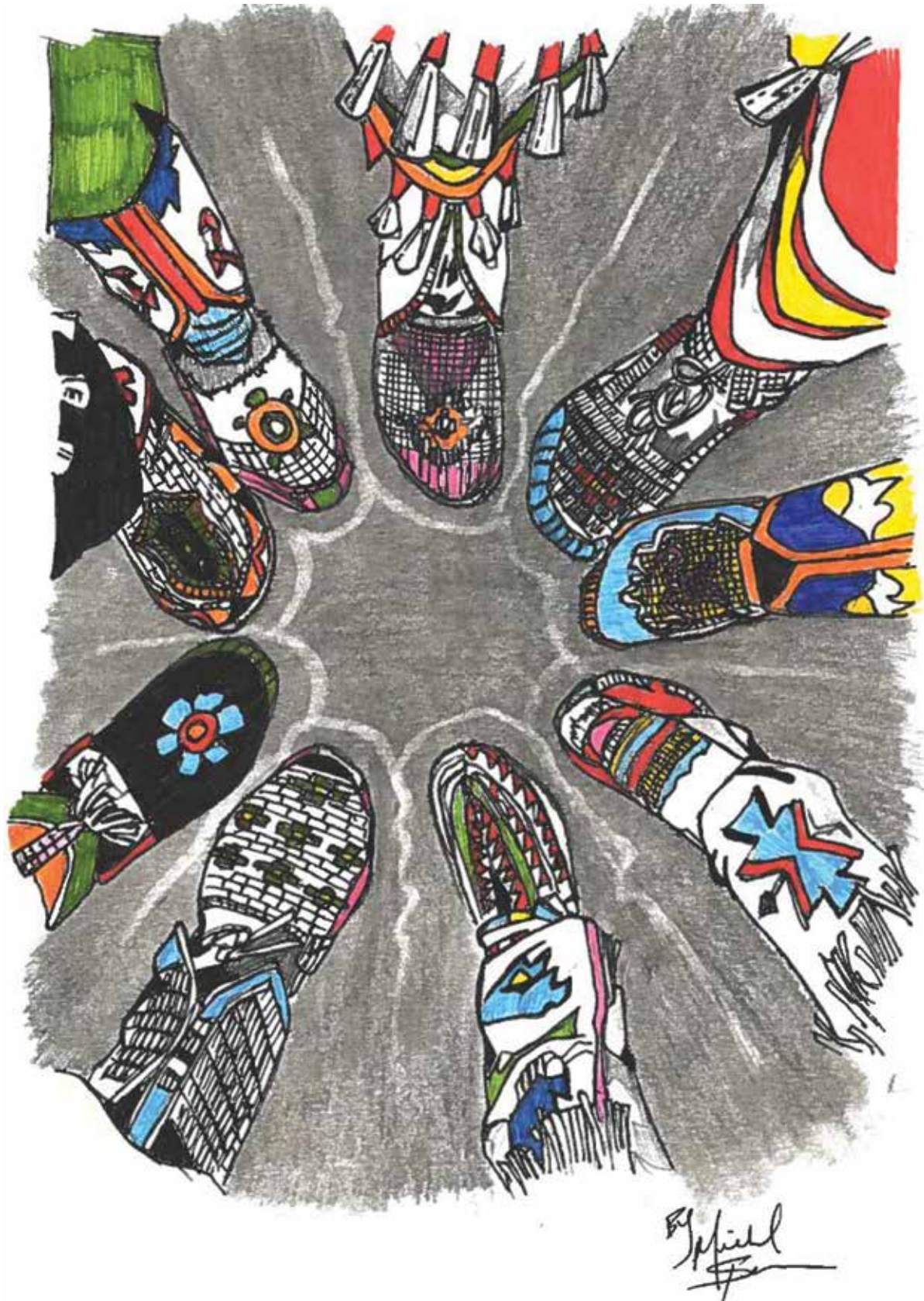
THE NORTHERNER

School Committee Conference
Report Edition 2020



FRONTIER
SCHOOL DIVISION
Excellence and Experience in Education

STRENGTHENING THE CIRCLE





INTRODUCTION

Working collaboratively, we can influence our next generations.

Frontier School Division's annual School Committee Conference is an important event in our school year and always promises to be an exciting, inspiring gathering. We were very proud to celebrate 42 years in 2020!

It takes a great deal of planning and work to ensure we have a successful gathering. Our Board is proud of the efforts and commitment that each individual involved demonstrates every year, and we thank every participant for their interest in the education of the children in our communities.

This year our conference theme was "Strengthening the Circle."

We are committed to caring, healthy, safe and inclusive schools and continue to give our staff opportunities to develop and improve the skills they need so students can achieve and excel. This is the path through which all members of our school families grow and become strong within the circle of community. Our Strategic Plan focus areas include Academics, Indigenous Way of Life, and Wellness. Together, these areas connect and blend into each other, working in harmony to strengthen the circle around our schools and our children.

Thank you again to everyone who attended and supported the conference, and for the important work done by so many on local school committees.

This report gives you a look at the excitement, inspiration and ideas that came out of the conference and demonstrates our attendees' hard work and dedication to excellence and experience in education.





STRENGTHENING THE CIRCLE

We walk together to create a strong future for our children.

“Education—good education—is vitally important if we are to make this world a better place for the next seven generations.”



The Board of Trustees of the Frontier School Division thanks you for your interest in the success of our schools, our teachers and most precious treasure—our children.

Frontier School Division continues to hold the education of all students as its highest priority. The three Focus Areas outlined in our strategic plan – Academics, Indigenous Way of Life, and Wellness – form a circle that is strengthened when any one part is strengthened. The focus areas are:

- **Academics:** Every student will obtain the literacy and numeracy skills necessary to achieve success in their education journey.
- **Indigenous 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.

The job of each school staff is to work towards achieving the outcomes of each of the focus areas. Our staff and our School Committee members help our communities understand the importance of each area and their connectedness as we collectively strive to walk in a good way. This is how our Frontier Family—our circle—is strengthened.

“First time at the conference—overall a great learning experience. Lots to take back to our school.”

OUR FOCUS ON INDIGENOUS WAY OF LIFE

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

To that end, we continue to focus on working with our communities to find the language teachers we require. It is a challenge to find instructors that have a strong command of the language and a Manitoba teaching certificate.

In November we held a second language gathering to strengthen language instruction. Five individuals—one from each area—were chosen to lead the language revitalization and champion programs by promoting language strategies and opportunities across the division.

Frontier School Division's Indigenous Way of Life department produced a short video to celebrate language acquisition through the singing and verse of our students. We are very proud of the result, particularly as it coincides with 2019 declared the "International Indigenous Year of Languages."

Land based learning and culture camps continue to grow in our division, and we recently partnered with Birdtail Sioux First Nation to hold a camp focused on land teachings, storytelling with Elders and many traditional hands-on, fun activities. In Norway House, land-based instructors organized a Culture Camp at Sea Falls for 250 young people that linked language instruction with culture and history.

This past year a few Manitoba schools, including Frontier Collegiate, piloted a new Grade 12 course called "The Treaties and the Treaty Relationship" to build understanding of First Nations people and show how Treaties are applicable today.

And another valuable resource—the book *Ensouling Our Schools*—is now in use

with a group of principals. The book speaks to Indigenous approaches to mental and spiritual health in the context of Residential Schools. It carries a strong focus on emotional and social well-being of our students.

It is exciting to recognize that our language, culture, and land-based programs continue to grow.

"Indigenous perspectives, language and way of life will be an active aspect of each curriculum."



OUR FOCUS ON ACADEMICS

English Language Arts and Mathematics are some of the core subject areas in our schools. Regardless of their roles, all our staff support our students to help them develop the foundational literacy and numeracy skills appropriate for their age and/or grade level.



We know that creating a culture of readers opens a world for our children. Without reading it's a world that lies dormant and undiscovered.

This year, we've come to recognize that we need to ask tough questions. We have to ask questions that will challenge us, challenge our system, and demand high expertise in teaching literacy skills to our students.

We need to do more than having a literacy

“Every student will obtain the literacy and numeracy skills necessary to achieve success in their education journey.”

plan. We need to have high expectations—of our children and of our teaching. Research shows that children do better when expectations are high, so we need to raise the bar in a loving way. We need to expect that our students are capable of literacy success.

Last year, a new cohort for Grades 7 and 8 was created in the Numeracy Achievement Project to join the Grades 6 and 9 cohort that began in 2017. The Project uses specific student data to inform teachers how to differentiate their teaching, as well as personalize their own learning.

Data shows that participation in the Project is paying off, with numeracy assessment gains of about five per cent from 2017-18 to 2018-19. If these gains continue our students will have improved 20 per cent in four years.

However, we still have much work to do. If we believe our students are capable—have high expectations—we can see a path is open to us and them.

As of this year all remaining Grade 7 and 8 teachers have been invited to join the Project, and the plan is to invite Grade 4 and 5 teachers next year. It's important to note that for the 2019-20 school year the principles and guidelines of the Numeracy Achievement Project have been implemented across the division and are available to all teachers.



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.

“Every school will provide a caring, healthy, safe and inclusive learning and working environment for students, staff and community.”



We continue to offer numerous programs for students, and almost all of our schools run more than one of these programs.

This past fall Frontier School Division, in partnership with WE Schools and Pembina Trails School Division, embarked on a program that brought staff and twenty students from each school division to Churchill for seven days of learning together. The program focused on learning goals to develop skills to succeed. It was more successful and impactful than we could have imagined.

In November students from Jack River School participated in The Canadian Red Cross’ Northern Youth Leadership Conference hosted by Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre. Programming at the conference included topics like bullying prevention, healthy youth relationships, caring for self and others, water safety and land-based learning.

This year has also seen the addition of a program with our staff called WellAhead, sponsored by the McConnell Foundation.

This initiative is focused on integrating social and emotional wellbeing into K-12 education based on a whole-school approach to wellbeing.

We have now also installed Telehealth in a number of schools with funding from Jordan’s Principle. This service provides students with almost instant access to professional counselling for crisis situations that might otherwise require the use of emergency services.

The wellness and well-being of our students affects all areas of their lives. In the past, through Jordan’s Principle, we hired seven mental wellness workers and a coordinator to serve the division. Upon a recommendation from Jordan’s Principle we have now added a case manager to help ensure students’ needs are met.

We are confident that working together we will continue to focus positively on wellness to help all members of our Frontier family thrive.

ART ON DISPLAY

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

This year, our students again brought out the best in drawing, painting, sculpting, crafts, film and photography. We received 344 entries from 185 students in 23 Frontier schools. Our judges commented on the amazing overall talent and noted that the art seems to be getting better year after year. The art was submitted in nine categories—drawing, mixed media, painting, pottery & sculpture, crafts, digital photography, enhanced digital photography, filmmaking, and animation.

Many pieces were selected to be part of an exhibition at the Graffiti Art Gallery in Winnipeg. In mid-April they will form the backdrop for student programming done at the gallery.

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

Visual Arts (except Photography and Film)

Shawna Grapentine,
Frontier Traveling Artist

Pat Lazo,
Artistic Director of Graffiti Art Gallery

Doug Melnyk,
Well-known Winnipeg artist in many mediums

Photography

Leif Norman,
Founder of Flash Photography Festival

Filmmaking and Animation

Angela Chalmers,
Manitoba Theatre for Young People

“Amazing to see growth in the Art Show over the years. Love seeing the wonderful work produced by our students.”

WINNERS OF THE 2020 FRONTIER JURIED ART SHOW

“Beautiful artwork. Encouraged me to ask my school to send their art as well.”

Drawing, Grades 7-8



1ST KEIRA FRIESEN,
San Antonio School,
“My Other Life”



2ND RAQUEL BJORK,
Wanipigow School,
“Untitled”



3RD MARIE FONTAINE,
San Antonio School,
“Don't Give Up”

Drawing, Grades 9-10



1ST MELANEY DUCHARME,
Cormorant Lake School,
“*The Rooster*”



2ND KATRINA DUNCAN,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
“*Remembered*”



3RD COLE COOK,
Oscar Blackburn School,
“*Eagle*”

Drawing, Grades 11-12



1ST SEQUIOYA YOUNG SCOTT,
Wanipigow School,
“*Pug*”



2ND TYRESHIA MUSWAGON,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
“*My Three Selves*”



3RD GREGORY CARSWELL
Joseph H. Kerr School,
“*Temptation*”

Mixed Media, Grades 7 & 8

1ST KEIRA FRIESEN,
San Antonio School,
"Pretty As A Peacock"



2ND HAILEY BREANN LAPIERRE,
San Antonio School,
"Show Off Your Colours"



3RD THOMAS LAPIERRE,
San Antonio School,
"Pikachu"

Mixed Media, Grades 9 & 10



1ST SARA ALBERT,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Sunset"



2ND JOURNEY FOLSTER,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Night Camp"



3RD ALEXIS CROMARTY,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Mountain View"

Mixed Media, Grades 11 & 12



1ST SERENITY HUNTER,
Frontier Mosakahiken School,
“Oozetastic”



2ND MORGAN OLSON,
Peonan Point School,
“Stepping With Style”



3RD ANGELA LINKLATER,
Frontier Collegiate,
“2 Sides”

Painting, 7 & 8



1ST AVA SUMNER,
Gypsumville School,
“The Storm”



2ND BRIANNE MORIN,
Cranberry Portage Elementary,
“The Country Life Hwy #5 Powerline”

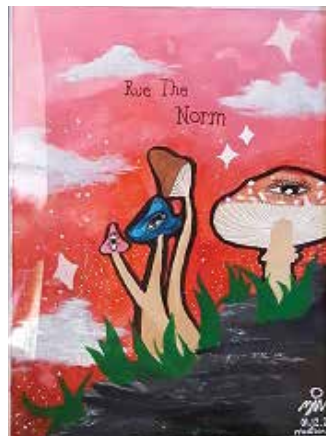


3RD JORDY CLARKE,
Brochet School,
“Paul McCartney and John Lennon”

Painting, 9 & 10



1ST SYLVIA CAMPBELL,
Frontier Mosakahiken School,
“Medusa”



2ND MADISON WATTS,
Duke of Marlborough School,
“Shrooms”



3RD KATRINA DUCHARME,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
“Dancer”

Painting, 11 & 12



1ST GREGORY CARSWELL,
Joseph H. Kerr School,
"Ocean Eyes"



2ND ANNALYNN SAUNDERS,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Eastern Woodland "Maskwa""



3RD ANNALYNN SAUNDERS,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Wapaskwak"

Pottery/Sculpture, Grades 7 & 8



1ST PHOENIX DANIELSON,
Cranberry Portage Elementary,
"Burning House"

Pottery/Sculpture, Grades 9 & 10



1ST KATRINA DUNCAN,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Iroquois False Face Mask"



2ND RAYNA
NEEPIN TAIT,
Helen Betty
Osborne
Ininiw Education
Resource Centre,
"Pit Fire"



2ND ABIGAIL
OLSON,
Peonan Point
School,
"Mug"



3RD LILY-ANNA
JOHNSON,
Helen Betty
Osborne
Ininiw Education
Resource Centre,
"Beige"



3RD LILY-ANNA
JOHNSON,
Helen Betty
Osborne
Ininiw Education
Resource Centre,
"Green"

Pottery/Sculpture, Grades 11 & 12



1ST SHELBY GEORGE,
Frontier Collegiate,
"No More Stolen Sisters"



2ND DILLON DYSART,
Frontier Collegiate,
"Gold Chief"



3RD KASSIE HARPER,
Frontier Collegiate,
"No Planet B 'Earth'"

Crafts, Grades 7 & 8



1ST OWEN OLSON,
Peonan Point School,
"It's A Me, Mario!"



2ND SHAYLEE HODDER,
Cranberry Portage Elementary,
"The Mermaid Family"



3RD JENNICA COLOMB,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Glitter Fantasy"

"It took more than 2 hours to view the student work. I am so impressed."

Crafts, Grades 9 & 10



1ST LEONA BRASS,
Frontier Mosakahiken School,
"Untitled"



2ND KAYLEE ANN SIMPSON
APETAGON,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Elegant Laminated Pens"



3RD KAYLEE ANN
SIMPSON APETAGON,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Laminated Bedside Lamp"

Crafts, Grades 11 & 12



1ST MORGAN OLSON,
Peonan Point School,
"Be Prepared"



2ND LIAM FRIESEN,
Wanipigow School,
"Star Blanket"

Digital Photography, Grades 7 & 8



1ST SHANICE COLOMB,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Dying Flowers"



2ND ANTHONY ROOBINSON,
Cranberry Portage Elementary,
"Good Day"



3RD MADISON STREAMER,
Cranberry Portage Elementary,
"Pretty Sunsets"

Digital Photography, Grades 9 & 10



1ST PAIGE ANDERSON,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Winter Tree"



2ND TRISHELLE LAMBERT,
Frontier Mosakahiken School,
"Untitled"



3RD KATIE COLLINS,
Matheson Island School,
"A Splash in the Sunset"

Digital Photography, Grades 11 & 12



1ST ROSELYNN SAMUEL,
West Lynn Heights School,
"First Frost"



2ND ROSELYNN SAMUEL,
West Lynn Heights School,
"A Handful of Light"



3RD ROSELYNN SAMUEL,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Window of the World"

Enhanced Photography, Grades 7 & 8



1ST CHRISTIAN SHLACHETKA,
Cormorant Lake School,
"Let Me In"



2ND KIA IWANKOW,
Falcon Beach School,
"Mini Forest"



3RD KENNEDY POPOWICH,
Waterhen School,
"The Way Back Home"

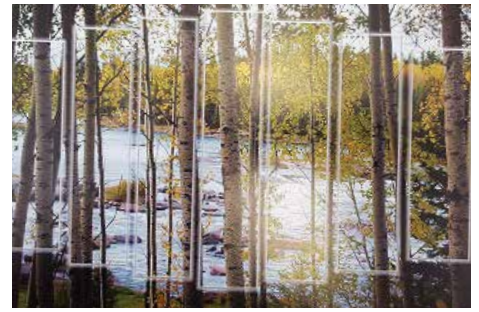
Enhanced Photography, Grades 9 &10



1ST MARLEY SHEWCHUK-IWANKOW,
Falcon Beach School,
“Birdy Bridge”



2ND SADIE QUESKEKAPOW,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
“Leaf Trail”



3RD RUTHIE QUESKEKAPOW,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
“7 Panel River”

Enhanced Photography, Grades 11 &12



1ST MCLURE CLARKE,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
“Dogs”



2ND KASSANDRA QUESKEKAPOW,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
“Goose”



3RD HAILEY DIXON,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
“Standing Eagle”

Filmmaking, Grades 9 & 10



1ST GEORGE HARPER,
Frontier Collegiate,
“Looking Good”



2ND CURTIS TX HARPER,
Frontier Collegiate,
“Water Commercial”



3RD GEORGE HARPER,
Frontier Collegiate,
“Panda Music Video”

Filmmaking, Grades 11 & 12



1ST AUSTIN MATHESON,
Frontier Collegiate,
"If Your Reading This"



2ND
HANNAH HIGHWAY,
Frontier Collegiate,
"Bad Guy"



3RD
DREW
MANOAKESICK,
Frontier Collegiate,
"Imaginary Friend"

Animation, Grades 7 & 8



1ST
TRISTIN BOURASSA,
Barrows Junction School,
"The Battle"

Animation, Grades 9 & 10



1ST
MONICA COOK,
West Lynn Heights School,
"School Supplies"



MUSICAL INCLINATIONS

A fabulous celebration of our talented students comes to the conference again.



Frontier's Got Talent was created to provide students with the opportunity to showcase their incredible energy and talent. No longer a competitive event, Frontier's Got Talent opens the stage to all students of all ages to share their gifts. It was very difficult for the committee to select performers for this year's event after so many talented students submitted videos last fall. Keep practicing your talents and submit again next year!

"Our students certainly outdid themselves again. Frontier's Got Talent—Awesome!"

It's important to provide students opportunities to perform and practice artistic expression, and we were pleased to see so many students contribute to this multi-faceted event. The sound, entertainment and hosting were all student-

run and led. It builds confidence and self-esteem and provides the chance to see something take shape that they might be inspired to duplicate in their own schools and communities.

Student host Jacob Bird (Frontier Collegiate) did a great job introducing the entertainment and keeping the program rolling along. Thank you, Jacob!

Once again, this year's conference goers were treated to a performance by the Frontier Fiddlers—an electrifying group of 27 student fiddlers from all five areas representing 12 different schools.

It is always exciting and enjoyable to see some of the incredible, diverse youth talent coming out of our Division!



"Amazing student talent in Frontier School Division. Schools do a great job of nurturing their youth."

DIVISIONAL RECOGNITION

Each year at our conference, we are proud to recognize those people who have made outstanding contributions that motivate the rest of us.

Frontier Achievement Award

The Frontier Achievement Award was established in January 1998 to recognize and honour the achievements of a former Frontier School Division student.

We are proud to present the 2020 Award to Brigette Lacquette.

Brigette, who was nominated by her community, grew up in Mallard, Manitoba. She started skating at the age of four and was introduced to hockey by her dad and cousins. Her dad built a rink in their backyard.

From that backyard rink Brigette journeyed to the 2018 Olympics in PyeongChang, where she helped Canada's Women's Olympic Team win silver.

On that journey Brigette attended Waterhen School up to Grade 9 and Rorketon School for high school. While traveling to attend Minor Hockey practices or games, she had to do school work and be in class the next morning after a late night!

Brigette always showed strong will and character, and even as a young player she was a role model and mentor. She always looked for ways to include and lift others up.

Brigette joined Canada's National Women's Under-18 Team in 2008 and won silver and gold at the 2009 and 2010 IIHF (International Ice Hockey Federation) Under-18 Women's World Championships. She played with Canada's National Women's Team at the 2013 Four Nations Cup—the first First Nations player to join the team—



Today Brigette continues to be the role model she has been from an early age. She is not only an incredible role model for First Nations girls—she is a role model for us all.

In her absence, the Frontier Achievement Award was presented to Brigette's aunt, Joanne.



Brigette's aunt Joanne accepts the Frontier Achievement Award on Brigette's behalf.

LONG-STANDING SERVICE AWARDS

The following staff were recognized for their long-standing service to Frontier School Division.

The time and energy these individuals have given to Frontier School Division, specifically for the good of our students, is invaluable. This year, we were pleased to present the Frontier Achievement Award and Long-Standing Service Awards to hardworking and dedicated staff, administrator and volunteers.

2020 School Committee Service Awards

Presented at the February 2020 Annual School Committee Conference:

10 Years

Audrey Ballantyne,
Grand Rapids School Committee

Howard Sanderson,
Waterben School Committee

Marie Nepinak,
Skownan School Committee

Bonnie Whiteway,
Matheson Island School Committee

Robert Lavallee,
Frontier Mosakahiken School Committee

Annabell Campbell,
Frontier Mosakahiken School Committee



15 Years

Ann Marie Flatfoot,
Minegoziibe Anishinabe School Committee

Dorothy DeLaronde,
Philomene Chartrand School Committee

20 Years

Madeleine Handel,
Stevenson Island School Committee

Donna Calvert,
Cold Lake School Committee

School Committee Outstanding Contribution Award

The Outstanding Contribution award is presented to school committee members who show truly outstanding participation and personal investment. Criteria includes volunteerism, executive duties and responsibilities, meeting attendance, long service and responsiveness to community and school concerns.

This year we were proud to recognize two recipients:

Bonnie Whiteway, Matheson Island School Committee

Bonnie has been part of her school committee for 10 years and has shown wonderful dedication and commitment in her role as secretary and treasurer.

She volunteers at all Matheson Island School events and has participated in field trips across the area and division as a driver and chaperone. She always makes herself available to help on short notice, whether it's planning an activity or getting behind the wheel for another school trip!

Bonnie is a great support for her fellow committee members, the school and the community—bringing forward important input and concerns from community members.

She is a caring person, full of energy and generosity, who helps make the school a very special place for all the children. Thank you, and congratulations Bonnie!



Donna Calvert, Cold Lake School Committee

Donna has been a valuable member of the Cold Lake School Committee for 20 years. She understands that working as a team and involving the community helps create the best school experience for children, and she works hard to make that happen.

She volunteers extensively to support school activities and fundraising. She also attends school assemblies and events and encourages parents and other community members to get involved.

Donna is well-respected by her fellow committee members, as well as staff and students. They appreciate her dedication to always making education better.

She is a strong role model for new committee members and committed to building strong relations with her local community, school staff and administration. Thank you, and congratulations Donna!



PRESENTATIONS

The Blanket Exercise—Manitoba Version

Adele Ledoux, Louise Landygo and Nova Courchene of our Indigenous Way of Life Team adapted the original Kairos Blanket Exercise to incorporate Treaty education and other information relevant to Frontier School Division's communities.

"Should be brought to schools, taught and shown to nurses and police officers. Very powerful."

"One of the most powerful and informative sessions I have ever attended. Love how it was so directed to Manitoba."

Our Manitoba Version of this effective role-playing activity helped participants understand the First Nation perspective to treaty making and other historical events before, during and after colonization. It was personalized to the community with references to local oral history, archaeological research and historical records.



"I am moved by this. So many Elders in Canada cannot talk about their experience without sadness. There is still so much work to do and Frontier is doing so much of this work."

From the Heart: Healing the Legacy of Residential Schools

Elders and residential school survivors Mary Couchene and Dan Highway shared their stories and experiences and offered guidance and wisdom to delegates.

They reminded us that it's important for our students and schools to honour language, and to invite Elders and knowledge-keepers to share wisdom. When we work alongside our Elders and our community we can change the future of education.





Niigaan James Sinclair: Teaching Truth, Living Reconciliation

Niigaan is a regular commentator on Indigenous issues for CTV, CBC, and APTN.

He is the current Research Director for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, an assistant professor at the University of Manitoba and a proud Treaty One member.

Niigaan's sessions focussed on inspiring and defining success in our students. He spoke of Indigenous students needing more than what is classically considered "success," and why this often explains why many struggle with schooling. He also spoke of how Indigenous students can be inspired, and how these kinds of "best practices" can be distilled and implemented in our classrooms.

"Who am I? Why am I here? Who can help me? Where am I going? The questions can and should be asked to the students and we should assist in guiding their journey."



Bighetty and Bighetty Puppet Show

Humour and audience interaction help made this multi-language puppet show a favourite for everyone. The Bighetty and Bighetty Puppet Show was presented by brothers Ken and Kelsey Bighetty—part of the famous group that includes brother Daniel Bighetty and cousin William Colomb. Late brother Russell was instrumental in honing the group's puppetry skills.

Showcasing their skills in languages including Dene, Cree and Ojibway, the group's humour and approach crossed all cultural boundaries.



Fundraising

Chief Superintendent Reg Klassen and Secretary-Treasurer Brian Spurrill explored strategies related to fundraising, including divisional policy and processes.

The presentation included time for questions for delegates regarding fundraising activities at their schools.

We heard that the Board of Trustees supports and encourages fundraising to benefit students, school activities and humanitarian causes. School fundraising must be approved by the school principal and the school committee. More fundraising policy details and an approval form can be found on the Frontier School Division website under Policies.

"Selling the value of education is better than selling anything."







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