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Registrar's Update

Greetings all! It is hard to believe that just over three years ago the SPTRB opened its doors and began fulfilling its public interest mandate of administering the standards for professional certification, conduct and competence of Saskatchewan's teachers. August 31, 2018 marked the end of our third fiscal year and on November 29, 2018 the SPTRB held its third Annual Meeting for the purpose of reporting on the year's activities. At the meeting, the Board received the SPTRB's Annual Report which includes the independently audited financial statements, committee reports and commentary about the SPTRB's achievements throughout the year. The Board of Directors invited representatives from Saskatchewan's education sector organizations to participate in the meeting in order to reinforce the SPTRB's commitment to accountability and transparency. Further information about the Annual Meeting and a link to the Annual Report is included in this newsletter.

The Board of Directors has recently made amendments to both the administrative bylaws and the regulatory bylaws. The *Registered Teachers Act* requires that registered teachers be notified when changes are made to the bylaws. In accordance with Section 15 of the Act, notices of amendments to the bylaws are provided in this newsletter. In summary, the amendments establish the dollar amount for an annual registration fee, authorize a set of standards of professional conduct and revise initial teacher certification competencies.

The SPTRB is currently seeking registered teachers who are interested in becoming panelists for the Professional Conduct Committee or Discipline Committee. The participation of registered teachers on these two committees is what puts the "self" in *self-regulation*; one of the hallmarks of a

profession. If you are interested in serving on either of these committees, please see the section of this newsletter titled Call for Committee Members.

With the Annual Meeting behind us and December already upon us, the SPTRB staff will now turn its focus to the certification of mid-year graduates from Saskatchewan's Bachelor of Education programs and meeting with spring graduates at a number of events in the new year.

As another calendar year comes to a close, the staff and board of directors of the SPTRB wish you all the hope, wonder and joy of the Holiday Season!

Sincerely,
Trevor Smith
Registrar & COO

Annual Meeting Summary

The Annual Meeting was held on November 29, 2018 at the SPTRB offices in Regina. The 2017-2018 Annual Report was approved by the Board of Directors and can be found on the website [here](#). Highlights included: chairperson's address, COO address, and committee activity reports made by representatives from the Teacher Education and Certification Committee, Certification Decision Review Committee, Standards Development Committee, and Professional Conduct Committee. Representatives from the following stakeholder organizations were in attendance: Ministry of Education, Saskatchewan School Boards Association, Office of the Provincial Auditor, Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials, Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, and University of Regina.

Board of Director's News

The SPTRB Board of Directors welcomes Ryan Boughen as the newest board member. Ryan, who has been appointed to the board by LEADS, replaces Al Boutin. We thank Al for his time and service as a board member. As of November 29, 2018 Robin Bellamy has been elected to the position of Chairperson and Jill Tressel to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors. Thank you to Tom Schonhoffer and Darrell Burko for their time, work and dedication as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board since the SPTRB's inception in 2015.

Robin Bellamy

Robin Bellamy was born and raised in Saskatoon. Robin received his Bachelor of Education Degree at the University of Saskatchewan. He has an extensive background in various areas having been a member of more than 40 boards during his career, including serving as a trustee for the Saskatoon Public School Board for 15 years. Robin has worked and volunteered over numerous years in the non-profit sector and runs a small business. He has received the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee, Saskatchewan Volunteer, Saskatchewan Centennial and the Canada Volunteer 125 Medal as well as the Saskatoon 100 Reasons Award.

Jill Tressel

Jill has a B.Ed. from the University of Manitoba, a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Calgary and has been an educator for 21 years. She has a variety of experiences in both elementary and high school education. She has been a classroom teacher, a student support teacher in both elementary and high school, a curriculum consultant – specializing in assessment and currently works as the Principal of King George Elementary School in Moose Jaw. Jill has a passion for education and is committed to ensuring that school and classroom environments allow students to thrive by providing high quality instruction, engaging learning experiences, and a sense of safety and belonging for all students.

Notice of Administrative Bylaw Amendment

Effective September 27, 2018 annual registration fees of \$110 plus GST have been added to Schedule A: Fees of the Administrative Bylaws of the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board. The Administrative Bylaws can be viewed on the SPTRB website [here](#).

Notice of Regulatory Bylaw Amendment

The Regulatory Bylaws of the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board have been amended with two changes. [Schedule J: Standards of Professional Conduct](#) has been added to the Bylaws, and [Schedule G: Teacher Certification Competencies](#) has been amended. These changes take effect as of the November 16, 2018 printing of the Saskatchewan Gazette. The amended Regulatory Bylaws can be found [here](#).

Registration Fees in 2019-2020

The SPTRB will begin collecting registration fees in the 2019-2020 school year. As per our revised Administrative Bylaws annual registration fees to register with the SPTRB will be \$110 plus GST. The exact process for collection of fees is in development and details will be communicated in spring 2019. Annual registration for 2019-2020 will be open from May through August.



Agribition

Part of the SPTRB's work involves informing teachers and the public about the objects and processes of self-regulation and helping them to develop an appreciation of the value of self-regulation. To that end the SPTRB attended Agribition for the purpose of connecting with the attendees at this popular event.

SPTRB Staff Members
L-R: Becky Wock & Anabelle Gonzalez

University of Saskatchewan Pinning Ceremony

Registrar, Trevor Smith, recently participated in the "Pinning Ceremony" at the University of Saskatchewan. Each year, the College of Education celebrates the commitment to the teaching profession of all third-year education students. During the ceremony, students pledge their intention to uphold the values and commitments of the profession and join their classmates in receiving a pin representing this commitment. The pledge goes as follows:

The Educator's Profession

I am a teacher.

I profess to work collaboratively with students, colleagues, and the community towards learning and discovery in inclusive, ethical, fair, just, respectful, and mutually supportive ways.

I am a reflective inquirer and lifelong learner. I endeavor to advance and adapt my knowledge, skills, and instructional styles to meet the needs of all learners. I take into consideration the diversity of values, orientations, history, rights, freedoms, responsibilities, and perspectives of all peoples in Saskatchewan, in Canada, on First Nations and throughout the world.

I continuously aspire to develop proficiency in the historical, working, and lived curriculum and in the language of instruction; to learn and use meaningful, equitable, and holistic teaching strategies for instruction, assessment, and evaluation; and to create learning environments that encourage and support the lifetime growth of the whole students.

I am committed to using my skills, knowledge, and judgement wisely. My dedication to the profession will significantly contribute to the well-being of students, families, and communities.

I understand the power of education.

Call for Committee Members

Professional Conduct Committee Panel and Discipline Committee Panel

The Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board (SPTRB) has an exciting opportunity for educators to contribute to their profession. The Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) Panel and Discipline Committee (DC) Panel are seeking registered teachers to serve as committee members. Each committee plays a key role in the SPTRB complaint management process.

The PCC oversees the investigation of complaints of professional misconduct and/or incompetence made about registered teachers and decides how best to resolve these matters. Each five-member PCC is drawn from the PCC Panel and meets 7-8 times throughout the year. Some meetings may be conducted by conference call. Substitute teacher coverage and travel costs are reimbursed by the SPTRB.

DCs hold public hearings when a formal complaint is submitted by the PCC, decide if the formal complaint is proven, and if so, determine an appropriate disciplinary order. Each five-member DC is drawn from the DC Panel. DCs meet on an as needed basis but not more than 7 to 8 times per year. Some meetings may be conducted by conference call. Substitute teacher coverage and travel costs are reimbursed by the SPTRB.

This is an excellent learning opportunity that draws on the unique experience and skills of teachers. For information on how to submit an application to either the PCC or DC, visit www.sptrb.ca and click Committees.

The SPTRB is committed to establishing committees whose members are representative of Saskatchewan's diverse teaching force.

Gender Identity Collection



The SPTRB is committed to finding ways to implement changes to provide equal treatment without discrimination around gender identity information and to support diversity in all forms. In its interaction with the public, applicants and registered teachers, the SPTRB wishes to continue to demonstrate its commitment to be inclusive and to treat all individuals with dignity and respect.

The SPTRB collects gender on application forms for demographic information on the teaching profession. As of September 1, 2018, the application forms have been updated to reflect gender diversity. A third gender option as well as the option "I choose not to declare" has been added to the SPTRB's online application form.

Applicants will be given the following options to select from when applying to the SPTRB for a teacher's certificate: Male, Female, X (Unspecified, i.e. includes but not limited to Trans, Non-Binary, Two-Spirited, etc.), Choose not to disclose (i.e. You may identify with any of the gender options provided but do not wish to disclose.)

Complaint Management: 2017-2018 Summary

The SPTRB is tasked with establishing and administering the professional certification and standards of professional conduct and competence of teachers for the purpose of serving and protecting the public. Between September 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018 there were 39 complaints received by the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC). Of those complaints, 22 were dismissed at intake because they did not allege professional misconduct or incompetence, or because the SPTRB had no jurisdiction over the person named in the complaint (i.e. the complaint did not name a registered teacher) and 17 investigations were initiated. Of the 17 investigations, 6 were dismissed following the investigation because professional misconduct or incompetence was not found or it was not in the public interest to pursue; none were referred to the Discipline Committee (DC) and 3 were referred to the consent resolution process.

Of the 3 referred to the consent resolution process all 3 were still in progress as of August 31, 2018. For a CCRA to be implemented, the registered teacher, complainant and PCC must all agree that misconduct occurred and to remedy the situation. Finally, as of August 31, 2018, 8 investigations were ongoing.

A formal complaint may be made by the PCC to the DC for a discipline hearing. The PCC may refer the matter to the DC after considering a variety of factors. These may include if a CCRA was not successful (if attempted), the severity of the misconduct reported via the PCC investigation, and the public interest. In 2017-2018, the DC has heard one case alleging misconduct that result from a matter reported in a previous year.

Registered Teachers or holders of Temporary Teaching Permits involved in the discipline process have admitted or been found guilty of a variety of breaches of *The Registered Teachers Act* and SPTRB bylaws. Conduct included:

- Causing injury to a student
- Failure to maintain appropriate boundaries with students
- Sexual assault
- Accessing child pornography
- Inappropriate use of social media

For the full list of CCRA's and discipline decisions issued by the SPTRB, visit www.sptrb.ca and click the Conduct and Competence tab.

Third Anniversary of the SPTRB

October 19, 2018 marked the 3rd Anniversary of the SPTRB.



SPTRB Staff Back L-R: Jason Vogelsang, Assistant Registrar; Anabelle Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant/Accounting Clerk; Yuan Liu, Records Clerk; Becky Wock, Policy Analyst/ Writer; Kelsie Konecsni, Records Clerk; Trevor Smith, COO/ Registrar

Front L-R: Brenda Holowatuk, Certification Analyst; Janice Krietemeyer, Certification Analyst; Laura Weisgarber, Executive Coordinator; Crystal Kowalski, Certification Analyst



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