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## Fall and Winter 2019 - 2020

Greetings from the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board!

Spring is on its way and that means it's time to provide an update on our fall and winter activities.

## Annual Registration and Certification

The fall kicked off with a flurry of activity supporting the certification of last-minute hires from out of province and the registration of Saskatchewan teachers.

This fall was the first year that the SPTRB collected a fee associated with the registration process. We very much appreciate the efforts made by each of you to register prior to beginning your duties each fall and for the efforts of those in each of the school divisions who validate the registration lists! Currently there are just over 18, 000 teachers registered to teach in Saskatchewan.

## Annual Meeting and Report

The SPTRB's Board of Directors held its annual meeting on November 21, 2019. The meeting was attended by representatives from First Nations University of Canada, Ministry of Education, Saskatchewan School Boards Association, Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials, Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and the Official Opposition Critic for Education.

SPTRB Chairperson, Robin Bellamy, thanked outgoing board members Kimberlee Schlageter and past-chairperson, Tom Schonhoffer, for their service and welcomed two new members to the Board – Wanda Clare and Murray Guest. Ms. Clare is the principal at Nakoda Oyade Education Centre and Mr. Guest is a teacher from Saskatoon Public School Division.

Mr. Bellamy's address highlighted the work of the board during the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year and the important role teachers play on the Board of Directors, the Professional Conduct Committee, the Discipline Committee and various other SPTRB committees.

Reports from Registrar and COO, Trevor Smith, about the progress made on the SPTRB's Strategic Priorities; Assistant Registrar, Jason Vogelsang, about the Professional Conduct Committee; and a summary of certification processes and statistics, presented by Certification Analyst, Crystal Kowalski, rounded out the meeting.

The annual report, including all committee reports and the audited financial statements for 2018 – 2019, is located here.



Chairperson Robin Bellamy...

## Annual Meeting and Report Continued

New Board members Wanda Clare (left) and Murray Guest (right).



## Special Education Teacher Qualification Letter

In January 2020, the SPTRB assumed responsibility from the Ministry of Education for issuing and phasing out the Special Education Teacher Qualification Letter. The Special Education Teacher Qualification Letter will cease to be issued on December 1, 2020.

After December 1, 2020 teachers who are presently working towards completing the requirements for the letter will not be issued a Special Education Teacher Qualification Letter but will be able to demonstrate completion of special education coursework to employers by way of post-secondary transcripts.

Going forward, pre-service teachers who complete a special education minor will have that indicated on their university transcripts. In-service teachers will be able to complete a "micro credential" comprised of 15 credit units of prescribed special education coursework. The Special Education Micro Credential is the first five courses of the ten-course (30 credit unit) certificate programs offered by the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. The certificate programs qualify for a Certificate Program Additional Qualification Certificate and promotion from salary class four to class five.

Further information about the Special Education Teacher Qualification Letter can be found [here](#).

It is anticipated that the universities will develop additional 15-credit micro credentials in other areas of provincial need that will be able to be paired with one-another to meet the requirements for a 30-credit Integrated Program Additional Qualification Certificate and promotion from salary class four to class five.

Note: An Additional Qualification Certificate may cause a teacher in class five to qualify for class six. Promotion from class five to six is not guaranteed upon the granting of an AQC because of the conditions set out in the Teacher Salary Classification Regulations.

Further information about Additional Qualification Certificates can be found [here](#).

## Professional Standards

The SPTRB is responsible for administering the standards for certification, conduct and competence of teachers in Saskatchewan for the purpose of serving and protecting the public. In order to carry out this responsibility the SPTRB utilizes a complaint management process. The prevalence of complaints about teachers is very low. This is a testament to the quality of character among those who teach in our province.

It is important to not only safeguard the public but also the reputation of the teaching profession so that the high level of trust in the profession already held by the public is maintained. For that reason, the SPTRB's complaint management process is fair, thorough and transparent. Further information about the professional standards and the complaint management process can be found [here](#).

## Continual Professional Learning and Currency of Practice Working Group

This past year, the SPTRB's Teacher Education and Certification Committee (TECC) established a working group for the purpose of researching the current state and best practices of continual professional learning and currency of practice for Registered Teachers and other professions in Saskatchewan, Canada and abroad. The efforts of the working group will culminate in recommendations to the Teacher Education and Certification Committee and ultimately the Board of Directors concerning these important aspects of professional practice. The working group's steering committee has appointed Registered Teachers: Mike Chase, Jody Dahlen,

Azalea Parisien and Suzanne Vance to the working group. The steering committee wishes to thank all who took the time to apply for participation in this project.

The Centre for Education Research, Collaboration, & Development (CERCD) from the Faculty of Education, University of Regina has been engaged to provide research and writing support for this project. The working group met with the CERCD on February 27, 2020 to review the project plan. The research for this project will be conducted throughout the remainder of 2020 with a report on the findings expected early in 2021.

## Internationally Educated Teachers Certificates

The Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan have both developed a post-secondary certificate program for the purpose of assisting Internationally Educated Teachers (IETs) in meeting the requirements for teacher certification in Saskatchewan.

The IET certificates include both coursework and field placements that will help newcomer teachers to become orientated to Saskatchewan's education system. The field placement is respectful of the experience that IETs bring with them and is based on a peer to peer relationship rather than the mentor/mentee relationship that exists in the internship. The field placement provides IET's with the opportunities to gain experience teaching in Saskatchewan and to develop a professional network.

## Spring Graduates

The winter term is now well underway and that means the SPTRB's busiest time of year is just around the corner. Spring graduates should begin their teacher certificate application at their earliest convenience and are encouraged to submit all required documents before the end of April. Teacher candidates who have complete application packages will be issued their teaching certificate immediately upon receipt of notice from the university that they have qualified for convocation.

SPTRB Staff members Brenda Holowatuk and Janice Krietemeyer at the U of R Education Career Expo 2020



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

[Click here](#) for information on how to submit an application to either the PCC or DC.

## SPTRB Teacher Engagement

In October the SPTRB was invited to attend the Regina Teachers' Convention. We hosted an information booth and had the pleasure of interacting with numerous teachers and interns. Discussions covered a range of topics including certification requirements, annual registration, and volunteer opportunities.

If you would like us to attend an event with an information booth or would like us to make a presentation about the SPTRB and its functions, we are more than happy to do so. This type of presentation may be relevant during professional development days/events, staff meetings, etc. Simply contact our office to explore opportunities.

## 2020-2021 Annual Registration

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year is tentatively set to open on Monday, May 4, 2020.

