

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Each year the Catholic Section recognizes those individuals who have made a highly significant contribution to Catholic education in the province of Saskatchewan.

1982	Wendeline Herle Olaf Turnbull	1983	Frank Chad Walter Podiluk
1984	Emmett M. Hall Camille Tremblay	1985	Wm. A. Reid Jack Sader
1986	Florence Fournier Frank McGrath	1987	Arnold Gantefoer Eric Williams
1988	Philip Hammel Joseph Holash	1989	Bishop James Mahoney Nick Volk
1990	L. J. (Pluke) Fournier Michael Riffel	1991	Ann Stewardson
1992	Stan Digout	1993	(No Award)
1994	Eugene Thera Benedict Wittman	1995	Joseph Kammermayer John Nikolejsin
1996	Dr. James McLoughlin Dorothy Forthier	1997	Henri O'Reilly Kenneth McDonough
1998	Dr. Brian Noonan Julian Paslawski	1999	Rene Poisson
2000	Debbie Ward Laurent Fournier	2001	Fr. Ron Beechinor Dr. Garry Andrews Tom Owens Glen Gantefoer
2002	Paul Baskey Della Stumborg	2003	Gail Ferster Nestor Trach
2004	Ron Kruzeniski	2005	Marion Fletcher Lynda Browning
2006	Jim Kress Lawrence Viala	2007	Sr. Rosetta Reiniger
2008	Bishop Emeritus Blaise Morand	2009	Bert Provost Vance Mokelky
2010	Keith Koberinski George Meyer	2011	Mike St. Amand
2012	Bev Hanson	2013	Sr. Juliana Heisler
2014	Herb Sutton	2015	Sr. Teresita Kambeitz
2016	Ken Loehndorf	2017	Bud Bohun
2018	Geri Hall Darrell Zaba		

At the 2018 October AGM and Convention in Weyburn Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association recognized two members, Donna Zeigler (RCSD #81) and Jerome Niezgoda (RCSSD #212) for their service to Catholic education.



Left to right: Donna Ziegler, Vicky Bonnell (President SCSBA) and Jerome Niezgoda

SCSBA Appreciation Award

Joanna Landry



Joanna Landry is a registered member of Cowessess First Nation and has strong Métis family roots connected to the Crooked Lake Métis road allowance settlement. She is a product of Regina Catholic schools where she attended various schools from Kindergarten-Grade 12 within the division. She began her rewarding career as a teacher with Regina Catholic Schools in 1995 and later becoming the Aboriginal Education Consultant and most recently the First Nations, Inuit & Métis Education Coordinator. Joanna's role as a coordinator supports a wide variety of school division areas such as Ministry reporting, strategic planning support, project leads, renewed curriculum implementation and support, knowledge

of resources and collaborative planning.

Her strengths are working with First Nations and Métis Elders, but her passion includes Catholic Education, being a Treaty education leader since its inception in 2000, supporting First Nations, Inuit & Métis student learning and achievement, and First Nations knowledge and philosophies. Joanna credits her traditional knowledge from the many First Nations and Métis Elders and knowledge keepers she has been honored to work with across Saskatchewan. After 5 years of leadership at central office she applied for the FNMI Coordinator position. She held that position for the last 17 years after which time she decided to recently apply for a superintendent's position and was successful there as well. Joanna Landry's work has and continues to be a great blessing for the Catholic school system and for the local and national church, especially so at a time when strengthening relations and healing past wounds with our Indigenous peoples are an urgent priority. Everything Joanna undertakes, she does with much care and concern. She's an amazing listener and does not speak too quickly; she weighs her words after hearing what others have to say. Especially with Elders she shows an incredible amount of respect. But inevitably what she says is of great value to a conversation.

SCSBA Appreciation Award

Donna Ziegler

Donna has been a member of the board of trustees for Regina Catholic Schools (RCSD) for a period of 19 years. Donna has been a board member since the 2000 election and was the only woman on the board for that term. As Rob Bresciani's sister-in-law, he got tired of Donna asking him questions about facilities, transportation and staffing, and finally said, 'just run for the damn board instead of asking me'. During this tenure, Donna has led and been party of many initiatives. The following is a list of ways she has demonstrated her leadership:

- 2003-2004, 2010-2011, 2016-2017: RCSD board as Deputy Chair and Chair
- 2005-2011: RCSD director for SCSBA, deputy chair 2 years
- 2017-2018: SSBA - Member of the Education Governance Organizational Review Committee



Founding member on a few initiatives:

2004: Inquiry into student representation/consultation with the board - Youth Senates were established by 2005-2006 and continued until 2017.

2006: One of the founding members and volunteers for the Breakfast for Learning Committee through the SSBA, then known as the Saskatchewan Nutrition Advisory Council for Kids - now the ongoing nutrition program recognized by the SSBA (still involved in the selection process committee.)

2007-2008: One of the founding supporters/members for the Circle of Voices Committee
Instrumental in RCSD having its first youth day in 2006 - November 20 and having this day declared by the Mayor as RCSD Youth Day, it had 16 breakout sessions, 1 key note. Over 1000 students attended.

RCSD director for SCSBA responsibilities included being a member of the executive and on the communications committee, helped organize two Affirming Hope joint conferences with the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (2006, 2011 - co-chaired as host with Bert Yakichuk). Presented our Catholic history at the 2006 Affirming Hope Conference. Present when Theodore started, mill rates were decided, during the development of new schools' admission policy by Catholic boards, when government coined terms as Schools^{Plus}, and the amalgamation of 14 boards to 8 boards.

Donna has been an active trustee on several committees: Finance Committee, Policy Committee, Catholic Connections, Circle of Voices and Mayor's Council Liaison Committee.

Julian Paslawski
Meritorious Service Award

Geri Hall



Prior to her retirement in January 2018, Geri Hall had been an educator in Saskatchewan for 37 years, with the last 14 years spent with Holy Trinity Catholic Schools. Geri came to Holy Trinity in 2004, relocated to Moose Jaw as a Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction in 2007, and became Director of Education in May 2014.

Geri's journey into Catholic Education began with her primary education in LeRoy followed by high school at St. Ursuline's Academy in Bruno, Saskatchewan. In 1976 Geri was a St. Thomas More student. After completing a BA at STM Geri went on to complete a Bachelor's and a Master's in education. She is the mother of three children (two sons and a daughter), with two sons having graduated from STM. Geri was awarded the St. Thomas More Distinguished Alumna Award in 2013.

Geri's provincial contributions were notable. She was part of the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation work and was selected by the Ministry of Education to work with the Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit to develop LEADS modules and deliver sessions. She was also part of the Provincial Leadership team working on the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) in Reading, Writing and Math.

Geri's Directorship spanned the early stages of the challenge of the Theodore court case. She was renowned for her cool under pressure, and her leadership at this time was appreciated by all eight Catholic Divisions in our province.

As a result of Geri's influence and leadership, Holy Trinity was ahead of the curve in many areas, but specifically in supporting emergent readers. Geri had a vision regarding the development of an effective reading intervention program and used data-based decision making to bring that vision to fruition.

As a mentor and role model, Geri inspired all employees within Holy Trinity to be the face of Christ to the students in their schools. She was the embodiment of our division theme, "Be Joyful in Hope" and was truly a servant leader.

Geri was passionate about kids and education, and that passion radiated from her wherever she went. She knew all teachers by name and was a visible presence in schools. She emphasized a balance between effective teaching strategies and relationship building—the foundations of a successful classroom and school environment. It was clearly Geri's hope that all her colleagues, who she treated as family, felt appreciated and valued during her tenure.

Julian Paslawski
Meritorious Service Award

Darrell Zaba

Prior to his retirement in July 2015, Darrell Zaba worked in Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division for twenty years, serving as Assistant Director and Director of Education. Darrell's belief in a unified direction was demonstrated through his commitment to the Board Mission and Core Values which defined expectations within the Division. Darrell's influence created an organization that worked together at all levels; results prevailed!

Darrell's focus on student achievement benefited staff and students in Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools. His passion for reading, writing, math, instruction and assessment created a culture of learning that resulted in reading achievement that was recognized provincially! Darrell's instructional leadership was far-reaching as he became the Reading, Writing, Math Outcome Owner for the ESSP during its initial phase.

Darrell's provincial contributions were also notable in Catholic Education. While serving on the Education Committee for five years, Darrell chaired the Curriculum Permeation Project, *Revealing Christ in All We Teach*. This project continues to be integral to instruction in our Catholic Schools. Darrell also served as Co-chair of the SCSBA Reference Committee, supporting grade 9-12 Catholic Studies program development.

Darrell's Directorship required great dedication through very turbulent times of the Theodore court case. His professionalism and guidance were exemplary during highly sensitive times. This leadership was appreciated by all eight Catholic Divisions in our province.

When Darrell thought that he was retired from education, Holy Trinity Catholic School Division asked him to fill the role of Interim Director from January 2018-July 2018. Darrell demonstrated an incredible skill set that guided the division through budget planning, year-end, and the transition phase between Directors. His servant leadership made Holy Trinity a better place during his brief stay, and we were grateful to call him part of our family.

Darrell's commitment to Catholic Education has truly been a calling, a vocation. His support for the faith formation of students, staff, parents, and community was greatly appreciated. Pope John Paul II wrote, "Catholic Education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others", a guiding statement for Darrell's vision for Catholic Education.

Darrell's quiet self-confidence, unwavering resolve, and eagerness to give credit to others is commendable. His leadership style can be characterized as a blend of personal humility with intense professional will. We thank Darrell for being a model of servant leadership and integrity, as he walked with us through our faith and learning journeys!

