



SCSBA



Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association

April 20, 2020

Dear former Trustee and/or Director of Education,

As the saying goes, “***we stand on the shoulders of giants***”. Nowhere is this truer than in the world of Catholic education.

As current Catholic trustees, the giants upon whose shoulders we stand are former trustees like you who have served Catholic education well in years past. The same can be said about former Directors of Education. While we no longer have access to the original pioneers whose genius resulted in the launching of Catholic schools in this province, we still do have access to the protégés of these pioneers, such as yourself, who came on the scene much later. As a former trustee or Director of Education, you have made your own valuable contributions, which has allowed Catholic education to survive and thrive in this new millennium. This new millennium is now twenty years in the making, and depending on your age, you may have served before this historical marker or later. Regardless of when you served, your legacy is at least partly responsible for the unanimous decision by the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal on March 25, 2020; a decision that protects funding for all students who attend our Catholic schools. You too fought the good fight to protect Catholic education during your tenure; as well as in the years following your service, even if only through your prayerful support, which of course is the most powerful contribution of all.

In honouring the legacy of former trustees and Directors of Education, your ***Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association*** (SCSBA) is exploring the concept of ***Associate Membership***. In a nutshell, we are wishing to ascertain if there might be an interest among former educational leaders to become associate members so as to remain better connected with the SCSBA’s advocacy work. At a very basic level, our organization would like to do a better job than it does now in honouring your legacy and utilizing the great wisdom and passion that each of you has for Catholic education. We already know that we have your support; and that as former trustees or Directors of Education, you appreciate more than most what’s at stake when it comes to supporting and protecting Catholic education. We also know that you may be asked questions about contemporary issues where you find yourself having to defend that which you spent so much of your life defending. Knowing that you support Catholic education and the young people we are called to educate, the SCSBA feels it is incumbent upon us as an organization to do better, than we are now, at keeping you in the loop on today’s challenges and opportunities so that you are better equipped to continue to support Catholic education.

We are fully aware that establishing an Associate Membership Arm of the SCSBA will pose both challenges and opportunities. Of course, the challenge is to come up with authentic ways of engagement and to envision an administrative structure that does not put additional pressure on our current human and financial capacity. In anticipating some of these challenges, we have already thought of ways of mitigating inherent risks. One obvious mitigating factor would be to ensure that we don’t overly complicate things. Associate membership might be nothing more than having an email list of former trustees and Directors of Education so that they can be put on the SCSBA’s distribution list for President’s Updates, sharing of interesting articles, and perhaps invitations to special events (maybe at a reduced cost). At this basic level of involvement, there would be absolutely zero expectations put on associate members. Our intent is not to put you to work as we know you have earned your retirement status. Instead, our intent, as already mentioned, is to honour your legacy and keep you informed on what’s happening in Catholic education so that you have the opportunity to operate out of the same toolbox available to today’s leaders in Catholic education.



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Among current trustees and Directors of Education, the feedback for this idea has been encouraging; however, we know that a decision to proceed (or not proceed) is very dependent on the perceived interest among potential associate members. With this in mind, we have developed a short survey, which should take no more than five minutes to complete. It basically focusses on:

- 1) Your approval or disapproval of such an idea;
- 2) The likelihood of you becoming an Associate Member;
- 3) What you would expect from the SCSBA if you were to become an Associate Member; and
- 4) What perks you might see yourself taking advantage of as an Associate Member.

Based on the data collected, the SCSBA Board of Directors will be making a decision on whether or not to proceed with an associate membership arm of the SCSBA at our regular meeting on September 19th, 2020. Our decision and the results of the survey will be posted on the SCSBA website shortly thereafter.

This letter and survey will likely be handed to you by a current trustee who knows you and appreciates your former service to Catholic education. You can either return the survey to this same person, or send it to the following address:

Tom Fortosky, Executive Director of the SCSBA
420 22 St E.
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 1X3

Or email to:
t.fortosky@scsba.ca

We look forward to receiving all surveys by June 30th as we wish to collate the results over the summer so that we may have them ready to share at the September SCSBA Board of Directors Meeting on September 19th.

God bless!

Sincerely,

Vicky Bonnell

Past President of the SCSBA & Chair of Associate Membership Feasibility Study (Adhoc Committee)

Delmer Wagner

President of the SCSBA