



2023

**Julian Paslawski Meritorious
Service and Appreciation Awards**

**Banquet
&
Ceremony**

*In honour of contributions
to Catholic Education
in the Province of Saskatchewan*

*October 21, 2023
St. Anthony's Parish Hall
2704 56 Avenue
Lloydminster, AB*

Banquet

Social - 6:00 p.m.

Dinner - 7:00 p.m.

Master of Ceremonies:

Vicky Bonnell, SCSBA Vice President

Welcome Remarks & Grace Before Meal

Introductions & Greetings

♦ **Honourable Jeremy Cockrill**, Minister of Education

Government of Saskatchewan

♦ **Teresita Chiarella**, President

Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association

♦ **Harry Salm**, President

Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association

♦ **Jaimie Smith-Windsor**, President

Saskatchewan School Boards Association

Awards Ceremony

8:00 p.m.

Appreciation Awards

Jodie Bzdel

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools CCSTA Planning Committee

Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service Award

Debbie Berscheid (posthumously)

Maurice Chalifour



SCSBA 2023 Appreciation Award

Jodie Bzdel

Jodie was raised Catholic attending mass at Holy Trinity Catholic church in Regina, St Joan of Arc elementary school and graduating from O'Neill High School in Regina Catholic School Division. She went on to get her Baccalaureate in French at the University of Regina and started her teaching career in grade one French Immersion at Ecole St Pius in Regina Catholic School Division in 1991. She married her husband, her best friend and biggest supporter Clayton Bzdel in 1992 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Regina the parish she grew up in. God blessed them with two daughters Sydney born in 1998 and Gracie born in 2003.

Jodie taught with Regina Catholic School Division until 2006 when her family moved to British Columbia. Clayton and Jodie's two daughters Gracie and Sydney attended St James Catholic School in Vernon, BC. They chose the Catholic School over the Public French Immersion school because they wanted their daughters to have their faith permeated throughout their school day. Jodie's family moved to Moose Jaw in 2012 and she started working for Holy Trinity Catholic School Division. She has held many roles in Holy Trinity Catholic School Division as a classroom teacher, physical education, and arts education, reading intervention and student support teacher. She was also the French, Literacy, and Early Learning Consultant.

These past five years she completed her master's in religious education with Newman Theological College and was the Religious Education Consultant for Holy Trinity Catholic School Division. This year she returned to Ecole St Margaret full time as the vice principal, student support teacher and is teaching some grade seven and eight classes. She is excited for this new opportunity and to be working with students, teachers and families in all grades and supporting the Catholic French Immersion program as an administrator. Jodie thrives on change and learning and thanks God every day for all the amazing opportunities she has had in her life in Catholic Education. She says Catholic Education is the opportunity to know God, to love God and to serve God every day in all that we do.



SCSBA 2023 Appreciation Award

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools CCSTA Planning Committee

It was an event four years in the making, and by all measures, it was a resounding success!

In 2019, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools' board and administration started planning to host the 2021 Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association's Annual General Meeting and Convention. As it did to everything, the global COVID-19 pandemic disrupted plans. Travel became difficult, if not impossible, and gathering in groups was prevented and/or actively discouraged through various government interventions to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Each subsequent year, plans to hold the AGM and convention in-person were considered, so tentative plans (booking of venues, planning events and speakers, etc.) were made by the planning committee. And each subsequent year, CCSTA's executive decided the prudent decision was to hold virtual meetings (2020, 2021 and 2022).

When the national executive decided to conduct an in-person AGM and convention in June 2023, planning resumed in earnest. Choosing a theme, booking venues, planning events, lining-up speakers—and all the numerous details that each of those tasks entails—went into full swing. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools proudly hosted the CCSTA 2023 Conference “Rooted In Faith” in Saskatoon, June 1, 2 & 3, at the Sheraton Cavalier. It was the first time trustees from across Canada had the opportunity to re-engage in-person since 2019.

Feedback from attendees and the CCSTA executive support the fact the planning committee members did an outstanding job of hosting the event—from highlighting Saskatoon as a destination city, to exhibiting typical prairie hospitality, to putting together an agenda of faith-filled speakers and provocative breakout sessions that both challenged and uplifted attendees, and much more.

Committee members are: Director François Rivard, past-Director Greg Chatlain, Superintendent Scott Gay, Superintendent Tom Hickey, Executive Assistant Patti Seto, Communications Consultant Derrick Kunz, Religious Consultant Darcie Lich, Assistant Manager Lena Savino, and retired teacher Karen Omelan-Davis, along with trustees Diane Boyko and Sharon Zakreski-Werbicki.

SCSBA
Julian Paslawski
Meritorious Service
Award

Beginning in 1982, this award was simply called the Meritorious Service Award. It honours individuals who have made a highly significant contribution to Catholic Education in the Province of Saskatchewan. In 2006, it was re-named the Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service Award to honour the outstanding service of long-time Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (SCSBA) Executive Director Julian Paslawski. He began his tenure in 1987 and continued his service until his retirement in 2007. During that time, he guided the association through enormous changes to education in the Province of Saskatchewan.

He facilitated the amalgamation of Catholic divisions from more than 20 to the eight divisions we have today. Along the way he supported the formation of a number of new Catholic school divisions prior to their later amalgamation with larger divisions. He coordinated the incorporation of the Catholic Section of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association into the SCSBA in 2006. His work maintaining relationships with politicians and bureaucrats was legendary. He was awarded the 1998 Meritorious Service Award and in 2008 he received the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association's highest honour, the Justice James Higgins Award, for outstanding leadership in Catholic Education in Canada.



Julian Paslawski Meritorious 2023 Service Award

Debora Berscheid (posthumously)

Debora (Deb) Berscheid served on Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools' Board of Education since 2006, and sadly, she passed away in the summer of 2023. Deb also served on the board of the Humboldt Catholic School Division prior to school board amalgamations in 2006 (dates unknown).

During the years just after amalgamation—and throughout her term as trustee—Deb's local insight, experience, relationships and expertise proved to be integral in a smooth transition to a united, larger Board of Education. Her local representation on the Joint Operations Committee, a partnership that jointly governed Humboldt Collegiate Institute with Horizon School Division, was invaluable. Always the advocate for the needs of schools in her subdivision, Deb also had the ability to see the larger picture and how decisions affected students, families and staff at all 50 schools in the school division.

Deb also represented the board on the nākatēyimitowin Educational Partnership, a formal partnership with Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI). The partnership works to build programming that supports Métis students and enhances educational opportunities of Métis history and culture for all students within the division, and specifically at St. Michael Community School—a Métis school of excellence—in Saskatoon.

At the board table, Deb offered frank and honest feedback and advice that put students and families at the centre of decisions. At the same time, she was a good listener, appreciating differing perspectives and respecting the collective conclusions of the board. And she had a wit that kept everyone on their toes.

Deb is survived by her husband Roger, their two children: Jason and Catherine (husband Brian), her mother Marjorie Stroeder, her eight siblings, and many nieces and nephews.



Julian Paslawski Meritorious 2023 Service Award

Maurice Chalifour

Maurice Chalifour is a dedicated member of our Catholic educational community, viewing his service as a response to his vocational calling. He has been an integral part of the Prince Albert Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 6 since 1969, initially as a teacher and later as a principal in 1987. Although he officially retired from teaching in 1995, his commitment persisted as a substitute teacher until 2004. Maurice's dedication to Catholic education continued, leading to his election as Trustee in 2011.

As a Trustee, Maurice exhibited exemplary leadership, contributing significantly to various committees, including the Audit Committee, Discipleship Committee, Staff Appreciation and Recognition Committee, and serving as the liaison for the Prince Albert Catholic Education Foundation. He also served as Vice-Chair of the school board. Maurice demonstrated outstanding advocacy and negotiation skills, playing a pivotal role in local fundraising efforts and engaging with local parish communities to preserve the voice of Catholic education.

Maurice's contributions extended beyond his role as Trustee, as he also served as an appointed Board of Director for the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association. He supported the Prince Albert Catholic Education Foundation in partnership with fellow former trustee Albert Provost, raising over \$600,000 for essential upgrades at École St. Mary High School and the national fundraising initiative for Catholic Education "Toonies for Tuition".

Outside of education, Maurice is a distinguished fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus and has chaired the Columbian Centre Board of Directors and he is an active participant in his parish and community.

Maurice's rich personal and professional experiences, combined with his volunteerism, have greatly enriched the Catholic education community locally and provincially. He remains an esteemed and valued member of the Catholic educational community, dedicated to supporting quality Catholic education.

Join us in congratulating Maurice Chalifour as a recipient of the Julian Paslawski Meritorious Service Award, exemplifying the values and commitment this prestigious award seeks to honour. His contributions are truly deserving of this recognition.



City of Lloydminster



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