COLLEGE OF ALBERTA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Retirement Ceremony

The Palisades Ballroom
DoubleTree by Hilton West Edmonton

Thursday, March 10, 2016
On behalf of CASS, and your colleagues across the province, I extend my sincere congratulations to the retiring class of 2016. I offer each of you the very best wishes for continued health, happiness and fulfillment as you embrace your new opportunities and passions with family, friends and with those you have yet to meet.

Your careers have been filled with passion and purpose, with growth and impact, with courage and compassion, with challenge and success. To be a School System Leader in Alberta could well be characterized as the “best of times and the worst of times” but through all you have experienced and through all you have lead, lives have truly been blessed because of your knowledge, your skill, and your influence for good on the lives of students, teachers, staff and the communities you have served.

As I contemplate your careers, your relationships, your accomplishments and your character may I share the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson as a tribute to your success:

What is Success?
- To laugh often and much;
- To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
- To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
- To appreciate beauty;
- To find the best in others;
- To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;
- To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived;
- This is to have succeeded.
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

It is with heartfelt admiration and respect that I, on behalf of all CASS members, acknowledge the success you have already achieved in a distinguished career and to wish you continued success in all that your future brings.

CONGRATULATIONS!

John Waterhouse
President, CASS
Gerry Fijal retired from the Calgary Board of Education after a 36 year career that included work with Calgary Catholic, The Toronto Metro Catholic School District and Alberta Education. Gerry has had the opportunity to work with principals and system leaders from across the province in challenging the conventions of high school practice. Over this time he has learned much from the connections he has made with dedicated professional education leaders who are driven by their desire to support students in meeting their dreams and aspirations.
Wendy began her 39 year teaching career in Foremost School, a K to 12 school where she taught high school Math, French and junior high Language Arts. She lived in a teacherage provided by the school district and has many fond memories of her life in small town Southern Alberta. After two years in Foremost, she moved to Wilson Junior High in Lethbridge where she taught a variety of subjects and held positions as a counsellor and Student Placement Coordinator. In 1989, she began her administrative career and had experiences at the elementary and junior high school levels. Throughout her teaching career, Wendy taught students with a wide variety of significant challenges, both academically and emotionally. She was also active in the ATA through her role as a provincial Economic Consultant, as president on two regional specialist councils and a member of numerous local committees. From 1996 to 2003, Wendy held the position of Director of Curriculum for Lethbridge School District. Then in 2003, she was appointed Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services, a position she currently holds.

Wendy earned a B. Ed. With Distinction, majoring in Math, and an M. Ed. in Administration and Counselling, both from the University of Lethbridge. She also completed two years of a doctoral program through the University of South Africa, with a focus on recruitment and selection on school administrators. In 2013, she was recognized as a YWCA Woman of Distinction and her community work has included an appointment as a senator on the University of Lethbridge Senate, as a member of the Galt Museum Capital Campaign and a number of other volunteer activities.

She began her association with CASS in 1996 and has the distinction of being the longest-standing member of CASSIX. She is grateful for the professional learning opportunities that CASS has afforded her and has appreciated the support and friendship of her CASS colleagues.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with Lethbridge School District, and I know that over the next several months I will continue to look forward to the challenges each day presents. It was a rewarding and exciting career and I have found each day an adventure. I am deeply grateful for having had the gift of being able to work with, and for students, in a profession that has brought me such joy.”
Dave Johnson joined Sturgeon School Division as the Associate Superintendent, Human Resources in 2007. Prior to that time he worked as a Labour Relations Consultant for the Alberta School Boards Association. Before moving to Alberta, Dave was a Labour Relations Officer for the New Brunswick Department of Finance.

Dave earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at the University of New Brunswick, a Master of Arts degree from Acadia University, and a Labour Relations Certificate from Queens University.

Dave has presented workshops provincially and nationally with a focus on appreciation of the collective bargaining environment in the education sector. His belief is that collective bargaining and labour relations should build positive relationships in the workplace and turn adversarial situations into collaborative ones; employer operational needs and fiscal goals are compatible with labour peace and respect.

Dave’s plans for the immediate future includes continuing as a Human Resources & Labour Relations consultant. He thanks his wife MaryAnne and his children Elliot, Georg, Veronica & Nathaniel for their support through his career.
Born, raised and educated in High Prairie in Northern Alberta, Carol received her Post-Secondary and Graduate Education at Mount Royal College, the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and Theological Studies from Newman College.

She has devoted her career to teaching and leading learning in a variety of diverse environments, including The County of Grande Prairie, St. Andrew’s School in High Prairie, Morley Community School on Morley Reserve, Rocky View School Division and now Living Waters Catholic Schools. Carol has been the Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent at Living Waters for 18 years.

Carol’s focus has always been success for all students, and most especially those who are marginalized by physical, health, socio-economic, or racial conditions. She has been a strong advocate and leader for Inclusive Education and a transformed educational experience for all students, in which all are led to fulfill their greatest potential.

She has found small Catholic Divisions to be most rewarding in that the community atmosphere and need to perform many and diverse roles, challenges and satisfies her need to be actively engaged in the work of schools.

Carol is married to Art, and they have a large family that includes many grandchildren. She hopes to spend more time with family and continue to be engaged in meaningful work as a consultant and as a volunteer.
I was born and raised in Falher (Alberta), studied at Collège Saint-Jean (Edmonton) where I obtained a BA and BEd, and a Masters in Educational Administration at the University of Alberta. I started teaching at Notre Dame JHS in Bonnyville in 1974, was seconded to the Ministry in 1984, became deputy superintendent of Lakeland Catholic in 1985 and superintendent in 1991. I have been superintendent of Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord since 1996. In those 20 years, the jurisdiction has grown from 1,000 to 3,200 students, and from six to 19 public and catholic schools – probably my foremost contribution to francophone education in Alberta.


In 2009, I received the RNDGÉ’s Edgar-Gallant award recognizing leadership in francophone education in Canada. The same year, I was awarded the Maurice-Lavallée Excellence in Education prize by the provincial French-Canadian Association, as well as an award from the Fédération des parents francophones de l’Alberta for accomplishments in the area of preschool education.

I am very thankful for my parents’ inspiration and my five siblings’ understanding and kindness along the way. All have grounded me and remain central to my happiness and well-being. I have two daughters, Josée (Blair Manning) and their sons Quade and Quinn, and Carole (Greg Kureluk) – they bring me immense pride, joy and love.

My heartfelt thanks to numerous trustees, mentors, colleagues and friends at Lakeland Catholic and Centre-Nord for their support, guidance and unwavering confidence in me.

I am very proud of my 31-year membership in CASS, having twice served as chair of zone 2-3 and two years on the provincial executive.

À tous mes collègues de CASS et au ministère de l’Éducation, un très grand merci pour votre appui, votre confiance et votre amitié … Adieu!
Fière francophone.

A proud francophone, I was born & raised in a close knit community in Manitoba.

My introduction to education was having to learn English in Grade One. I remember thinking I would never spell Christmas properly. I attended an all girl parochial school and graduated from Louis Riel Collegiate.

After completing a Bachelor in Education degree from L’Université de Saint-Boniface / University of Manitoba, I obtained a Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Administration from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

My career has spanned 40 wonderful years, from elementary francophone education in Saint-Boniface to Superintendent, Conseil scolaire Francophone in Southern Alberta. Throughout the years, I have been an elementary & secondary teacher in Francophone & French Immersion schools in Manitoba and Calgary, a French Immersion Specialist for the Calgary Board of Education, a school assistant principal & principal in elementary & secondary schools both French & English. The position of System Principal - French & International Languages capped a 25 year career with the Calgary Board of Education.

The last 8 years have been a return to my Francophone roots, and an opportunity to contribute to furthering Francophone education in Alberta. Following the establishment of the Francophone Professional Development Consortium as Executive Director, I returned to system administration for the Conseil scolaire du Sud. My professional journey then led me to the concurrent Superintendent of both Catholic & Public Southern Alberta Francophone school districts. A career steeped in creativity, innovation, rigor and vision culminated in the creation of a new dynamic & forward-thinking school district, le Conseil scolaire FrancoSud.

I have always been passionate about my work & have always given my very best to the children, staff, and communities I have served. I am proud of the risks taken during my career and for maintaining integrity and transformational leadership. The values of courage, humility, faith, hope, & love have governed my thoughts & actions throughout the years and will do so into the future.

I am so proud of my contribution to education in general and the foundations of Francophone education in Alberta. Je suis fière d’être francophone!
Colleen McClure began her pilgrimage as an educator in 1976 at Archbishop O’Leary High School. A teacher at O’Leary secured a grant to teach New Canadian students at Sacred Heart School during the summer and invited Colleen to be one of the teachers. And so the walk began. Playschool teaching, summer intervening, waitressing and a part time educational assistant job at the Alberta School for the Deaf filled the University years.

As a recipient of the Louise McKinney and IBM scholarships for academic achievement, Colleen could have continued on to graduate school as early as 1982. Fortunately, Edmonton Public Schools offered a teaching position in the first public school program for deaf/blind children. Colleen was sure she was the richest lady in Alberta when she received her first teacher paycheck signed by Mr. Stembitski. The very best decision Colleen made in the first year of teaching was to marry Bob McClure. Edmonton Public Schools continued to be a generous and accommodating employer and Colleen delighted in opportunities to serve as a teacher, a RECS, inclusive education and leadership services consultant, an Alberta education manager, a school administrator, a University tutor, a supervisor, acting director and associate superintendent. Colleen is especially grateful for her time with leadership services, Newton Consulting Services, San Diego State University, Special Programs Branch and Field Services and the College of Alberta School Superintendents. As a young teacher, Colleen never dreamed she would be granted opportunities to traverse the province on turboprop airplanes to meet serve and work with students, families and educators.

Surely St Faith, a patron saint of pilgrims, was with Colleen, when she was offered a position with Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools. Colleen will always be an advocate for public faith based education and grateful to GSACRD for caring for her own children. In more than thirty years of full time work, Colleen’s family has had to make sacrifices. Mom was so busy at work she forgot to send doughnut money for Robert in Kindergarten and spending money for the Festival of Trees for Ellen in grade two. There were many other gaps. Colleen anticipates that much time in refugios on the trek ahead will be spent asking for forgiveness for these sins of omission.

The joy on the journey has been found in the people: the children, the students, the families, the team members, the mentors, and the colleagues. It has been a blessing, a privilege, and an honor to walk the education camino with and among all of them. Colleen leaves with a small request. Please, please continue to include the full range of humanity in community schools and classrooms. The students on the margins of the bell curve make us better: as teachers and as human beings. Finally, Colleen has to thank her husband Bob, her children, her grandmothers, her strong, smart, capable Mom, her musical, spiritual, literate Dad, the McClure family she married into and her ever supportive sisters and their partners.

May God bless and keep all of you as you continue to serve children, youth and families in Alberta.
Ethical, trustworthy, hardworking, highly knowledgeable, dependable, wise and one hundred percent committed to students: these are characteristics that most people who've worked with Roy would use to describe him. His family would add disciplined, giving, encouraging serving and loving.

For the past thirty-two years, Roy has devoted his best qualities to educating and serving the people around him. From his first year as a teacher at Kehewin First Nations to this, his last year as Deputy Superintendent of Northern Lights School Division #69, Roy has sought to foster solidly researched educational practice, as well as positive reforms and opportunities for students, teachers, administrators, and Northern Lights, as well as various colleges, universities, and his community. Enroute, Roy has held every executive position available in a school division from director to assistant superintendent; acting secretary treasurer to associate superintendent; deputy superintendent to acting superintendent and, finally, back to deputy superintendent much of which occurred concurrent with at least one other. His undisputed organizational skills and focus, along with a lot of trust and loyalty from division support staff and colleagues, are what have allowed him to wear these myriad hats successfully.

Roy is tremendously grateful for the many opportunities he's had to work with educational leaders and visionaries both within and outside the context of the school division. Even unexpected responsibilities and situations have ultimately led him to greater understanding of the needs inherent to an ever evolving education system.

Roy will have great difficulty staying home next September, and it is certain that he will always be involved in furthering learning opportunities for others; nevertheless, his wife, children, and grandchildren are sincerely looking forward to helping him enjoy a long and fascinating retirement.
Robert grew up in Munich, Germany and Montreal, Quebec. He attended CEGEP and completed two years of Developmental Psychology at McGill. With an opportunity to be an undergraduate teaching assistant, Robert completed his B.A. in Social Psychology at Concordia University in Montreal.

Robert graduated from St. Michael’s College in Vermont in 1978 with an M.S. in Counselling Psychology, and State of Vermont teacher certification as a school counsellor.

He started his teacher career in 1978 with the Quesnel School District located in the beautiful interior of British Columbia. Counselling/teaching was the assignment at Quesnel Junior Secondary.

In 1979, Robert moved to Edmonton where he took a position as counsellor with Sturgeon School Division, assigned to both Namao School and Sturgeon Composite. In 1980, he moved full-time to Namao School, in the position as counsellor and special education teacher. In 1986, he became a special education consultant with Sturgeon SD located in Morinville. The initiative of inclusion of all students had germinated. In 1991, Robert moved from Sturgeon to Sherwood Park Catholic Schools.

After four years as a Division counsellor, Robert moved to Central Office in Sherwood Park assigned to psychological assessment services. The next twelve years were spent in the role of a Student Services Consultant with a variety of portfolios and duties.

In 2007, he became the Director of Student Services for the Division and subsequently the Assistant Superintendent - Student Learning and Consulting Services.

Throughout his career of 24 years with Elk Island Catholic Schools Robert has seen many changes and implementations of services/programs. All of these initiatives would not have been possible had it not been for a team of professional, caring, compassionate, and dedicated group of staff, professional and support. It is easy to lead a great bunch of people!

Robert has been married to Cora for almost 40 years. They have four children and six grandchildren.

Robert’s hobbies and interests are varied. He has been a life-long learner, having attended the University of Alberta regularly since 1981. Currently, he is trying to finish a dissertation!

Robert enjoys projects around the house, travels to exotic beaches, and his grandchildren.

Robert would like to thank all the great staff at EICS for their support over the years, the students and parents who provided the experiences, and the Board of Trustees for their foresight in the services they support to make the children’s experiences positive.

Thank you for all the friendships, hugs, prayers, collegiality, coffees, kind words, and caring that were shown to me over the 38 years. I will never forget. Blessings to all.
I have no recollection of making the decision to become a teacher….it was just always what I was meant to be. I do however, recall my first day of teaching, 35 years ago, like it was yesterday! Seeing a little grade 3 girl clinging to her mother’s skirt and not wanting to let go, I remember thinking that I was probably as scared as she was and I was the teacher!

Well that little girl has been a teacher now for many, many years and so as time has marched along, I have been blessed to have served as a teacher, counselor and special education coordinator and then 30 years as a school based or District level administrator.

It has been an absolute privilege to serve the students, parents and staff of Parkland School Division for my entire career. I never set out to become a school administrator never mind “a suit” from Central Office. It’s funny how things happen….throughout my career I have always held an optimistic outlook and a hopeful approach to the promise of youth. I was always just busy doing my job, focusing on students and found that new opportunities presented themselves sometimes when I least anticipated it.

I have enjoyed the enviable position of being called to a vocation that has been more play than work and I have been surrounded by the most amazing people, who have given me the chance to fulfill my little dream of making a difference for kids. It has been a real pleasure to have been a part of the development of a progressive and successful school district that continues to embrace change, risk-taking and innovation in pursuit of student success and well-being.
Born and raised in the Highland Park area near Fairview in northern Alberta, Carol earned her Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Alberta in 1978. Carol began teaching in Hines Creek, Alberta, near her childhood home, and spent the next twenty-two years in a variety of roles including teacher, counsellor, acting assistant principal, track coach and peer support lead. In 1990, Carol was awarded both the local and provincial Excellence in Teaching Awards for the outstanding work that she demonstrated as an educator. Those awards reflected her dedication to her students and the opportunities that she provided for them to be successful.

In 2001, Carol stepped in as interim principal at Fairview High School and although very successful in that position, was happy to return to the classroom the following year. She continued to teach at Fairview High School until 2006 when she became the Peace River School Division coordinator for AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement). In the fall of 2008, Carol became the Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, which later evolved into the Supervisor of Teaching and Learning. Carol continued in this role until the fall of 2015 when she lost a brief, but valiant, battle with cancer.

Carol was well known for her commitment, wisdom, common sense, and work ethic. She was the epitome of an educator and was highly respected by colleagues, students and parents alike. Carol was a lifelong learner who developed her teaching craft into an art and a science. She demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities and was able to accomplish many things as an educator and community member. Carol made a difference in the time that she spent serving her family and her community. She is sorely missed by her long-time partner, Paul Nedohin; her parents, Bill and Olga Fedoruk; her brother, Brian Fedoruk, and his partner, Anne Graham; as well as many friends, colleagues and her beloved dog, Snoodles.
“Best wishes to our newest retirees for continued good health and happiness for many years to come.”