

2020 Retirement Ceremony

College of Alberta
School Superintendents

Chrome Room,
Deerfoot Inn, Calgary
Thursday, November 5
2020

CASS

CASS President's Retirement Message

On behalf of the CASS Board of Directors and CASS members from across Alberta, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to all our colleagues who have retired this past year. We want to acknowledge the profound impact as a group and as individuals you have had on our Alberta education systems, Alberta teachers and as a result, students across the province.

CASS members serve our students and the public with the highest levels of integrity and expertise. CASS system leaders are uniquely aligned in our beliefs and action to prioritize student success and what is best for kids. Many of you have retired in the spring and throughout the summer during what has been an exceptional time in our society and in education. As a retiring system leader, you should take pride in your contributions and the positive impact you have had on so many lives through education. I would like to personally thank each of you for your service to our students and our school communities.

And as you leave one world and transition to others, I would also like to welcome you to CASS in your new capacity as life members! From all of us at the CASS Board, congratulations on a remarkable and impactful career. Enjoy your retirement and best wishes in the next phase of your life!

Bevan Daverne
CASS President 2019-2021



Retirees 2020

Bob Allen	Superintendent, Buffalo Trail Public Schools
Janice Aubry	Director, Curriculum and Resource Support, Edmonton Public Schools
Barb Brochu	Associate Superintendent of Student Services, Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools
Joan Burke	Coordinator of Instruction, Foundations for the Future Charter Academy
Jeannie Everett	Deputy Chief Superintendent (Acting), Calgary Board of Education
Chris Farquharson	Assistant Superintendent: Student Services, Grande Prairie Public School District
Manny Ferreirinha	Director of Organizational Learning, Rocky View Schools
Michael Hauptman	Superintendent, Elk Island Catholic Schools
Stu Henry	Superintendent, Red Deer Public Schools
Brett Huculak	Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, Battle River School Division
Metro Huculak	Superintendent of Schools, Yellowknife Education District
Dalane Imeson	Assistant Superintendent, St. Paul Education Regional Division
David Keohane	Superintendent, Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools
Ruth Kuik	Director, Special Projects/Initiatives, Sturgeon Public Schools
Cathy McCauley	Executive Director, Calgary Regional Consortium
Glenn McClure	Superintendent, Almadina Language Charter Academy
Charlie McCormack	Superintendent, East Central Alberta Catholic Schools
Lorne McDonald	Coordinator of School Services, Foundations for the Future Charter Academy
Doug Nicholls	Superintendent, Fort McMurray Public Schools
Dr. Lorne Parker	Assistant Superintendent, Edmonton Public Schools
Violet Parsons-Pack	Deputy Superintendent, Canadian Rockies Public Schools
Nick Radujko	Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum Learning Services, Grande Prairie Public School District
Chris Smeaton	Superintendent, Holy Spirit Catholic Schools
Lissa Steele	Associate Superintendent, Learning Services, Chinook's Edge School Division
Gary Strother	Superintendent, Calgary Catholic School District
Richard Svoboda	Superintendent, Human Resources, Calgary Catholic School District
Colleen Symyrozum-Watt	Superintendent, Pembina Hills School Division

**Retirees on this booklet are the retirees that gave CASS explicit permission to be acknowledged.*



Bob Allen

Bob began his time with Buffalo Trail Public Schools 53 years ago! His formal schooling was at Irma School. After graduating from the University of Alberta, Bob began his teaching career in the former Wainwright School Division #32 in the fall of 1984. His first assignment was Ribstone Colony School. Bob remembers being asked by the superintendent of the day, Andy Birchill, to have a look at the school as a part of considering the offer to begin his teaching career. The school was a “step back in time” with no running water and of course, no indoor toilets. Lunchtime for students was prep time for teacher. An oil furnace and four 60-watt light bulbs were the conveniences and every day was an adventure.

Bob’s career with BTPS continued with time at Wainwright Elementary School, Assistant Principal in Irma School and then as Principal back at WES. Bob joined BTPS Central Services in the fall of 2005 with Greg Bass as Superintendent. While time with Greg was short, it was a time that he looks back on fondly. After a nine month “acting superintendent” position, Bob formally began his role as Superintendent of Schools for Buffalo Trail Public Schools in July of 2009. He has had the pleasure of serving in this role for the past eleven years. The team at BTPS is excellent to work with and make the hard work enjoyable!

Bob’s wife, Camelia, is a registered nurse working out of Wainwright. His oldest daughter, Delaine, is in her third year of teaching for the Battle River School Division. She was married in last summer and resides in the Irma area with her farmer husband. Kylie, his youngest daughter, is currently working in the human services field and living life!

Bob has had the honor of working with many very gifted people over his career and is so appreciative of the support given to him at every phase of his journey. Bob will retire at the end of August 2020 and is eager to see what is around the next corner! He wants to express his sincere appreciation to those who helped along the way!

Janice Aubry



Janice Aubry began her career as an elementary teacher and French language specialist at Edmonton Public Schools. Over her 34 year career in the Division, she served as a teacher, consultant, supervisor, and director, retiring from her well-loved position as Director of Curriculum and Resource Supports, which included serving as the Director of the Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education (IISLE) at Edmonton Public Schools.

On secondment, Janice served for several years as Program Manager of International Languages and then Team Leader of Languages, in the Curriculum Branch of Alberta's Ministry of Education. Janice worked as an instructor at the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. In volunteer roles, she also served on ATA specialist councils, the Board of Directors of the Confucius Institute in Edmonton, as well as in various roles of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT), including serving as President.

Janice is grateful for her many years of being able to work for an amazing school division in areas for which she cared deeply, and for being able to bring together and work with, and for, many great teachers, leaders and educational innovators in Edmonton Public Schools, other school divisions, and across Canada.





Barb Brochu

Former Associate Superintendent of Student Services with Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools.

As I am unable to attend this celebration, I wish to pass along heartfelt congratulations to all the CASS retirees who are celebrating this occasion. The connections and on-going support that members of the CASS network provide are truly invaluable.

I began my educational career with Thibault Roman Catholic Public School District No. 35 in 1978. In addition to my time with Thibault/Greater St. Albert, I have served the teaching profession over the past 40 years in several Alberta school jurisdictions and authorities – Sturgeon School Division, Alexander First Nation Education Authority and more recently, Edmonton Catholic Schools – as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and Manager of Inclusive Education.

My passion for supporting all students, but particularly those with diverse learning needs led my studies towards a Special Education major and an Early Childhood minor at the University of Alberta (1978); and later towards a Masters of Religious Education degree at Newman Theological College (2006), with a focus on Catholic School Administration.

I feel blessed and fulfilled to have served the latter part of my career in Catholic school jurisdictions. Within a context of learning through the lens of supportive relationships with God, our students and colleagues, I was able to both serve and learn shoulder to shoulder with many fine folks.

I would like to thank all of my “companions on the journey”, especially the Superintendents (those who are still with us and those who have passed on), Education Directors, Elders and others who I travelled alongside - for their wisdom, professional support and contributions to my life-long journey. Wishing everyone many blessings, Hiy, Hiy.

Joan Burke



I began my teaching career in 1984, teaching at a K-12 school in Spruce View, Alberta. During this time, I came to understand how it takes a community to support students.

Following my time in Spruce View, I moved to Calgary and began teaching for the Foothills School Division from 1986-2005. I taught in a variety of programs and grades during my time in Okotoks and in that time, I came to understand that diversity was something to celebrate and finding ways to support all students was important and possible.

In 2005, I joined Foundations for the Future and have worked there in a variety of capacities. During my time with FFCA, I have come to understand that community, supporting diversity and remaining true to your vision can help students in extraordinary ways.

I have had a wonderful career in education, and feel so grateful for all the students, families and colleagues who have helped me along the way





Jeannie Everett

Jeannie Everett has over 32 years of experience in a wide range of roles within the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) where she demonstrated leadership for student success, commitment to inclusive education, creative problem solving and collaboration. Jeannie held a variety of positions including teacher, strategist, specialist, assistant principal, principal, area director and superintendent. In her final role in the CBE Jeannie served as the Deputy Chief Superintendent (Acting).

Jeannie has always stated she is a proud graduate of the CBE completing her high school education at Central Memorial High School. She has an Undergraduate Degree in Education and Master of Education Degree from the University of Calgary. A highlight of her career was in 2011 when she received Canada's Outstanding Principal Award and participated in Executive Leadership Training program at the Rotman School of Management.

Jeannie has always been committed to the value of public education and working collaboratively to design leadership and learning opportunities to build the professional capacity of aspiring leaders and educators. Jeannie was pleased to represent the CBE on several partnerships with Alberta Education as well as many others including the Calgary Police Foundation, the City of Calgary Local Immigrant Partnership, Calgary Public Library, the Sheldon Kennedy Advocacy Centre and working with post-secondary institutions in Calgary. Throughout her career Jeannie emphasized the belief that everyone has a part to play in public education and fostering professional learning of others and strong partnerships were integral to this success.



Christina Farquharson



Mrs. Chris Farquharson's career spans 35 years in education. She completed her Rehabilitation Practitioner Degree at Grant McEwan and her Bachelor of Education Degree at the University of Alberta. In August 1984 Chris began her career with the Grande Prairie Public School Division (GPPSD). During her time working with the Division, she also completed an Early Childhood Diploma from the University of Alberta and a Master's in Education Administration from San Diego State University.

Chris taught many different grades across the Division, worked as Special Education Consultant, Vice Principal, Principal, Director of Student Services and is retiring as the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services. Chris was also seconded by Alberta Education, Cross-Ministry Services Branch for three years as a Senior Education Manager and was a lead for the development of the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery Model.

In her words: My passion is for students and staff to be celebrated for their unique gifts. Teachers, educational assistants, parents and students deserve to have the foundational knowledge, strategies and resources to help each develop to their fullest potential. I have enjoyed the many opportunities provided me over the years by the senior leadership in GPPSD to develop programs and supports for our students and their families. All students and staff need a place to belong and at times, for some, that place is a safe and caring school and classroom.

I am honored to have worked and learned alongside so many talented and dedicated individuals during my career. My life has truly been blessed and enriched because of my colleagues, education partners and the staff, students and parents I have worked with. I look forward to my next adventures with my husband Andy of 40 years, and our son Keenan and daughter in law Lisa, family and friends!



Manny Ferreirinha

Manny Ferreirinha has served as a teacher, administrator, leader and educator for 39 years. He has recently retired from Rocky View Schools and has launched Manny Ferreirinha Consulting – Excellence by Design, Inc. The new company is dedicated to supporting teaching and learning and supporting in the creating great teachers, great leaders, great systems and inspired places of learning.

Manny is humbled by all of the incredible opportunities throughout his career as a teacher, school-based administrator and Supervisor of three major departments with (Alberta Initiative of School Improvement - AISI, Organizational Learning – Professional Learning, and Teaching and Learning from K-12) with Calgary Catholic Schools. These profound beginnings marked his character as a leader of service. He had the opportunity to gain experience with Alberta Education as a Senior Manager in Field Services and was seconded to be the Lead for the Facilitation and Public Engagement for “A Dialogue with Albertans” (Inspiring Education).

Always wanting to learn, Manny joined Rocky View School in 2009 as the Director of AISI, Professional Learning and the Learning Organization, and for the last four years as a Director of Schools.

Over the last 15 years, Manny have also been fortunate to work with teacher-leaders pursuing their Masters as a sessional instructor for both Gonzaga University and the Werklund School of Education in Graduate Studies. Recently, he also taught at Mount Royal University in their B. Ed. Elementary Undergraduate program. These opportunities as an instructor demonstrate his commitment to excellence, leadership, innovation and dedication to education for all learners.

Manny continues to lead with his heart.

Michael Hauptman

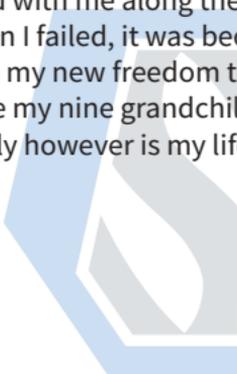


Michael started his teaching career at St. Vincent with Edmonton Catholic. At the same time, he ran to become a school board trustee where his son was beginning grade one in Legal. Michael served as a trustee & Board Chair for two terms in Legal and then a partial third term with St. Albert Catholic. During this time, Michael was a teacher, consultant & AP before leaving ECS to be a principal with Pembina Hills. Over the next 7 years, Michael was principal at Dunstable, Dapp, and the Alberta Distance Learning Centre.

Coming back home, Michael joined Greater St. Albert Catholic to be principal of Alberta Lacombe K-6 Catholic School and to open a Sports Academy. After a few years, a secondment opportunity came up with the Ministry of Education and Michael moved to a Senior Manager position in Field Services. Next adventure? Evergreen Catholic as Deputy Superintendent. After much work on behalf of Superintendent Vaselenak, Michael felt prepared (or so he thought) to take on the Superintendent role at Elk Island Catholic. His last 18 months were on secondment back with the Ministry of Education where he served as a consultant for Assurance, Director of the Teacher Relations Branch, & Acting Executive Director of the Evidence and Labour Relations Sector.

Grateful for the many blessing along the way, Michael will continue to depart wisdom gained through his various roles to current and future leaders in the education system as a sessional professor at Newman Theological College.

“Thank you to my colleagues in CASS and the many people that were cheerleaders, mentors, collaborators, colleagues and friends that journeyed with me along the way. My success was your success and when I failed, it was because I did not listen to you. I look forward to my new freedom to be with my wife, my children and of course my nine grandchildren. Teaching was my vocation; my family however is my life.”





Stu Henry

I have been lucky enough to have experienced a fantastic and rich career in education spanning 33 years.

Upon graduating from the University of Alberta with a B.Ed. degree in 1987, I was fortunate to be offered a teaching position in northern Saskatchewan in the Dene community of La Loche. It was an amazing experience that heavily influenced the rest of my career.

In 1990, I began a 15-year stint in Chinook's Edge where I entered administration and had the great fortune of opening a new school (Fox Run School in Sylvan Lake). During that time, I completed the Masters of Education Leadership program through San Diego State University.

Since 2006, I have worked in Red Deer Public Schools, first as a Principal, then as Deputy Superintendent and most recently as Superintendent.

I feel so fortunate to have been able to work in a career surrounded by the best kinds of people that society has to offer - teachers! These folks dedicate their lives to grow children - how great is that? While there has been no shortage of difficult times, I will remember the fun and joy of working around students and the great people I worked with in all of my roles.

I have been married to my amazing wife, Trudy (a retired school administrator), for 32 years and look forward to much travel, active living and family time with our sons and daughter-in-law.



Brett Huculak



I was born and raised in Edmonton and attended the University of Alberta where I obtained my B.Sc., B.Ed. and M.Ed. degrees. I have a passion for science and wanted to transfer that passion to the students that I taught.

I started my science teaching career in 1991 with the Calgary Board of Education. I then spent two years teaching for Wetaskiwin Public School Division. After that I obtained a teaching position with Beaver County School Division which then became Battle River School Division in 1995. I was with Battle River School Division for 25 years as a teacher and administrator. I moved into division office in 2014 as Division Principal and a year later became the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, a position I held until I retired in 2019.

From very early in my career, I served as an active member of the ATA taking on many roles in the local such as Economic Policy Committee member as well as the Chair of the Negotiating Subcommittee. I also served the Provincial Association as an Economic Consultant for 9 years. This experience provided me with a fundamental introduction to the world of Human Resources, which has assisted me in my roles in School Administration and as Assistant Superintendent over the last 16 years.

I really enjoyed my teaching and administrative career with Battle River School Division. It has been a pleasure working with students over the years. Seeing the joy of learning in their faces has been very inspirational. Being a Division office administrator was really great, the ability to work with schools throughout the division has been a very rewarding experience and something that I will miss.

I would like to thank CASS and especially Zone 4 and its members for their mentorship and the many professional learning opportunities that have been provided to me over the last 5 years. The help and support from my fellow Human Resources colleagues truly made my experience a rewarding one.



Metro Huculak

I have thoroughly enjoyed my 50 years as an educator in Alberta and Northwest Territories including 28 years as a teacher and principal, one year as Deputy Superintendent and 22 years as a Superintendent. Upon graduating from the University of Alberta I got a job teaching Junior High in Willingdon where I took my grade 1-12 schooling. In 1981 I took a job in Vegreville at St. Martin's School where I became Principal of that school. I spent 25 years in the Catholic system in Alberta. In 1998 I became Deputy Superintendent in Leduc and the next year became the Superintendent. I moved to Yellowknife in 2005 to become Superintendent of Yellowknife Public Schools. I have enjoyed 15 wonderful years here in Yellowknife. I have been blessed to work with many excellent teachers and support staff. The support I received as an educator in the various communities I served was exceptional. I truly believe that in each community I served there was a strong partnership between home, business and school. I served as the President of CASS Zone 23 and Director for CASS. I have been the Chair of the NWTSA, Superintendents Association, in the Northwest Territories for the past 13 years and have been a member of CASSA for over 20 years serving as a Director for 15 years. I am very fortunate to have worked with so many talented Superintendents from across Canada.

I have had a very rewarding career and have always advocated for staff and students. My philosophy has always been, "What is best for Students".

Monique, my partner and I look forward to spending time with our 5 children and 12 grandchildren. I lost my son last January and need to spend more time with his children. We plan to travel a lot and spend a lot more family time. We also plan to donate our time to support teachers and children in poor countries.



Dalane Imeson



Dalane grew up on a farm near Ashmont, Alberta and she has spent her entire career at St. Paul Education. She served as a grade 7 – 12 English and Physical Education teacher in Elk Point and Ashmont Schools for ten years, vice-principal at Ashmont Secondary for five years, principal at Ashmont Elementary for four years and finally Assistant Superintendent for the division for almost nine years. Dalane truly enjoyed the students, families, staff, and administrators she worked with during her 28 years at St. Paul Education and will definitely miss them.

Dalane holds a Bachelor of Education degree and a Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership, both from the University of Alberta.

Dalane was a part of many key division and school initiatives that have become the pillars of much of the division's work. Through her nine years at the division's central office, she had a broad range of responsibilities including human resources, student assessment, curriculum, new teacher mentorship, and educational leadership. She also valued her work with the Learning Network Educational Services as CASS's representative on the Board.

Dalane is definitely looking forward to her years in retirement. She loves spending time with family and friends, particularly her husband, Don, who she says has always been her number one supporter and encourager during her career. Dalane enjoys being outdoors in nature and tending to her garden and flowers at Floatingstone Lake where she now resides and she looks forward to spending much more time with her husband at their retirement home in Maricopa, Arizona. She loves reading, swimming, golfing, and travelling to new places around the world but she plans on staying current and connected by doing some subbing in the future.





David Keohane

My career path of 38 years was chosen as a result of a message that colleagues and family members would share with me – “hey, David, you should try that.”

Therefore, I started my journey with 17 wonderful years working for St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Schools where I was placed into different teaching responsibilities, pursued coaching various sports, explored youth ministry and consulting, and was able to engage in the role of vice – principal and principal, always within newly constructed schools!

My involvement with CASS for 21 years began as a deputy superintendent with East Central Alberta Catholic Schools, which quickly evolved into a superintendency. The work-related headache of my life was created by needing to address the aftermath of the Blessed Sacrament School fire. However, any malaise I felt at the time has since been soothed by knowing that this school community continues to thrive, and remembering the wonderful friendships and professional relationships that were formed in Wainwright and area. I was proud to serve for five years as superintendent with Holy Spirit Catholic Schools in Southern Alberta, and have just completed 11 years of service as superintendent with Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools.

The ongoing encouragement of others now leads me to my current work as Executive Director of CASS, which my immediate family refers to as a reaffirmation of my ongoing “reirement.”

Surrounding myself with a supportive family, good people, and an appetite to shoot for the stars as opportunities came my way has become my personal secret for furthering a fulfilling life and a rewarding career. Best wishes to all retirees who are part of the Class of 2020, and may your life journeys find you no shortage of people to meet and opportunities left to be explored.

Ruth Kuik



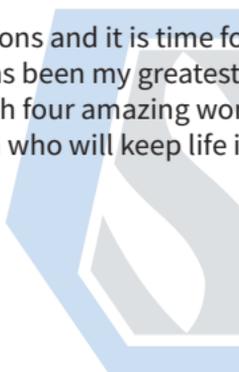
My love of teaching was affirmed when I joined Fort McMurray Public Schools in 1985. During my time with Fort McMurray Public I discovered the wonder of teacher collaboration and a joy for professional learning. Establishing professional practices that formed a solid underpinning of my teaching career can be attributed to my first two years in the profession. My professional journey continued when I joined Sturgeon Public Schools in 1987.

Upon reflection, I had never dreamed of being a teacher or pursuing a career in Education. After enrolling at the University of Alberta in Arts, by happenstance I found myself gravitating towards the Faculty of Education. The rest is history. With a B. Ed. in Special and Elementary Education my path was set. Later I returned to the University of Alberta to complete a M. Ed. in Professional Development and Teacher Education. Supporting new teachers and leaders has provided the opportunity to share my passion for this profession and assist them in realizing their potential.

Working with dedicated and talented people has been a blessing. Serving on the Alberta Teachers' Local Executive and the Professional Conduct Committee provided the opportunity to serve teachers and students and confirm that teaching is an honorable profession.

During my career I have served as a Vice Principal, Principal, Director, Associate Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent. Each of these appointments were a direct result of mentoring and coaching and I am grateful to the people who supported me on this unpredictable and unplanned journey.

Retirement now beckons and it is time for family and friends. My husband Henry has been my greatest supporter. Together we share our lives with four amazing women, their partners, and six grandchildren who will keep life interesting!





Cathy McCauley

Cathy McCauley officially retired as the Executive Director for the Calgary Regional Consortium (CRC) at the end of December, after more than 33 years of dedicated service to the field of education. Working with individuals and leaders from school authorities across Zone 5 in the provision of professional learning supports has been one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences in Cathy's career.

Cathy began her education journey as a middle school teacher in her home province of Saskatchewan. After spending 13 years in various classroom positions in Saskatchewan, Cathy made a personal and professional decision to move to Alberta where she was hired by Foothills School Division as a vice-principal at Highwood High School. The move to join Foothills School Division was the beginning of her career as a school administrator. This was to be a role that Cathy would come to experience at all school levels.

In 2005, Cathy joined the school administrative team at Foundations for the Future Charter Academy. During her tenure with Foundations, Cathy also served FFCA as the Coordinator of School Development. It was from Foundations for the Future Charter Academy that Cathy accepted the position as Executive Director for the CRC.

Cathy cannot imagine having a career that could have been more rewarding and enjoyable. She is sincerely grateful for the many opportunities for growth, both personally and professionally that have come to her throughout her career. Most of all, she will miss the daily interactions with people she now considers friends, as working with others through relationship has always been of importance every step of her career. Cathy is now looking forward to joining the 'enjoy life paradigm', where she and her husband, Ted, anticipate the creation of many exciting adventures to fill their days.

Glenn McClure



Glenn McClure is a native of Caledon, Ontario relocating, with his family, to Alberta in 1981. Glenn has been involved in education for most of his career. He has taught from Grades K to 12 in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Glenn has been in both school-based and district administration for sixteen years as Vice Principal, Principal and District Operations Manager for student records in Rocky View Schools. Glenn has worked at both the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University as an academic advisor and sessional instructor for students in the B.Ed. program. Mr. McClure spent 2.5 years as the Superintendent of the Almadina Language Charter Society which has over 1000 students from Grades K to 9 at two campuses in Calgary. Glenn retired from that position in August 2019.

Glenn holds an Honours BA in History and Political Science from York University and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Western Ontario. He has attained a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Calgary where he was named to the Dean's Honour List. Glenn has also completed his certification in Conflict Resolution from Mount Royal University and is a qualified mediator.





**Charlie
McCormack**

Charlie started his career as a teacher at Brother Rice High School in St. John's, Newfoundland. He taught for four years in Newfoundland and then went to Labrador City where he taught and worked as an administrator and program specialist for the Labrador Roman Catholic School Board. He was seconded to the Department of Education, Newfoundland, as Director of the Provincial Professional Development Centre following the Royal Commission on Education in 1994.

During the school board consolidation in 1996 Charlie accepted the position as Assistant Director of Education – Personnel, with the Lewisporte/Gander school district. In 2002 he moved into the position of Assistant Director of Education – Programs. Following the next school board consolidation in 2004 Charlie served as Assistant Director of Education – Programs with the new, Nova Central School District in Gander, Newfoundland.

In 2011 Charlie accepted the position as CEO-Director of Education for Nova Central School District, Gander, NL and served there until the last consolidation of school districts in August 2013. Charlie is especially proud of the significant improvements in student academic achievement and program enrichment achieved during his time in Gander. Nova Central led the province in many measures of academic achievement during his tenure with the school division.

Charlie was hired as Superintendent of Schools with East Central Alberta Catholic Schools in September 2013. He will retire effective December 31, 2020. According to Charlie, he was extremely fortunate to have found a career that he truly loved. He has worked with many great teams of educators and leaders in both Newfoundland & Labrador and Alberta. He feels blessed to have been part of such a dynamic era in education for thirty-seven years.



Lorne McDonald



Lorne started off his career working in small town Saskatchewan as a physical education specialist. He then moved on to a variety of teaching roles in K-8 with Regina Catholic Schools, where he moved on to an administrative position as Vice Principal.

After 10 years in Saskatchewan, Lorne joined Foundations for the Future Charter Academy (FFCA), where he served as an Associate Principal for two years prior to serving as Principal Educator for 14 years at 3 different campuses.

During his last four years Lorne has served FFCA as Coordinator of School Services. Though a Saskatchewan boy at heart, Lorne and his family have become proud Albertans, and FFCA has been a big part of it.

“It may be cliché, but education has offered me a fulfilling career with such enjoyment and lifelong friendships, one could hardly call it a job!”





Doug Nicholls

Thank you to the many people who supported me over my forty years in education including the last twenty as a Superintendent of Schools. I was very fortunate to work in several senior leadership positions in Fort McMurray Public, Prairie Rose, Turtleford School Division, and Black Gold Regional Schools. Working in three provinces and in seven school districts, both rural and urban, provided many amazing learning opportunities for me.

Special thanks must go to CASS Life Members John Bole, Lowell Thronson, and Paul Dolynny who provided me with school and leadership positions that allowed me so many career opportunities. Working with talented team and CASS members like Phil Meagher, Shannon Noble, Annalee Nutter, Brian Andjelic, Brad Volkman, Cec Race and Greg Stewart helped me grow throughout my career. It was a pleasure to be a team member with them and so many ASBOA members, teachers, and support staff over the years.

I truly enjoyed working with the boards. There are too many trustees and board chairs to mention but what a difference they made to the students, staff, and me personally. I remain friends with several board members even though many years have passed since we worked together.

While I spent the last two decades in senior leadership, I always considered myself a teacher first and foremost. How fortunate I was to enjoy twenty years as a teacher and twenty years as an administrator.

CASS members provided me with much needed guidance and expertise which was greatly appreciated particularly with the “reach outs” after the Fort McMurray fire. Thank you to all who shared their time, resources, experience, and wisdom.



Violet Parsons-Pack



What a wonderful career. It is hard to believe that I have been in school since 1968, either as a student or as an educator.

I remember not wanting to go to school when it was time to go to Kindergarten and in fact my older sister had to carry me up to the schoolhouse which was over a mile from our home. However, once I went inside, I never looked back.

After completing my time as a student, I have had the privilege of working as a teacher in multiple grades, a guidance counsellor, assistant principal, principal, Senior Education Officer, Assistant Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent. I loved each and every position but most importantly I loved the students, staff and colleagues that I got to meet and work with.

Working in multiple districts and multiple provinces has been amazing. Each one holds a special place in my heart. To have been given the amazing opportunity to spend the last five years of my career in Canmore Alberta working with the Canadian Rockies Public Schools was the cherry on top of the icing on top of the cake. Being in the Rockies, working with such a dedicated staff and being a member of CASS was inspirational.

I want to thank my family for their support throughout my career. My husband Randy has been right there supporting me every step of the way. I want to thank Randy and our children for their encouragement to keep growing and to make the most of opportunities as they came along.

I look back with joy on my career; I look forward with excitement as I move on to the next adventure still supported by my husband and children.





Dr. Lorne Parker

Dr. Lorne E. Parker's educational background includes a Master's of Education (Administration) degree from the University of New Brunswick and a doctoral degree in Policy Studies from the University of Alberta. Over the past 20 years with the Edmonton Public School Board, he has served as a principal, supervisor, managing director, executive director, and assistant superintendent. Prior to his service with EPSB, he served as a principal in Yellowknife, NWT and Fredericton, New Brunswick. In August 2020, he transitioned from his role as Assistant Superintendent with EPSB to starting an international educational consulting company, with a primary focus on working in China. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Education, University of Saskatchewan and serves as a lecturer in the Graduate Studies department, University of Alberta. Dr. Parker frequently speaks at national and international leadership conferences, most recently, the Association for Learning Environments Conference, Alaska, United States; Simposio Internacional, Liderazgo y Direccion de Organizaciones Educativas, Guadalajara, Mexico; Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration and Management (CCEAM) Conference, Limassol, Cyprus; and, Skolederkonferanse Conference, Oslo, Norway.

Dr. Parker is a longstanding member of Rotary International, having served as the President and more recently, the International Director with the Rotary Club of Edmonton Gateway. The combination of these two associations has provided a venue for him to be involved in numerous education focused international humanitarian projects, most recently leading school construction projects in Mozambique. In 2018, the Governor General of Canada recognized Dr. Parker, for his humanitarian service by awarding him the Sovereign Medal for Volunteerism. The award recognizes Canadians who have made significant long-term contributions to their community in Canada or abroad.

Nick Radujko



Nick is retiring after 29 years in education. Nick began teaching in Innisfree, Alberta with the County of Minburn in October 1991 teaching a wide range of subjects including English, social studies and health to students from grades 8-12. The County of Minburn was split into two after regionalization and Innisfree joined Buffalo Trail Regional Division (now Buffalo Trail Public Schools). In 1996 Nick transferred to Wainwright High School where he focused on English.

After 5 years at WHS, Nick became a Principal then a Director of Curriculum followed by Assistant Superintendent of HR and Curriculum at BTPS. In May 2012 Nick took the leap and moved to Grande Prairie where he became Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum for the Grande Prairie Public School District (now Division).

Nick believes that, as the song says, it is time to gather the harvest and put away the tools so, while he will miss the people he worked with and the educational vision of GPPSD, he looks forward to retirement.

After years of focusing on the instructional core, Nick feels it is time to work on the recreational core and enjoy time with his wife and family. The plans are to travel with Annette a bit, read a pile of books he has managed to put off for years and watch his daughter follow into the profession.





Chris Smeaton

After finishing a successful junior hockey career in 1983, where he captained the Yorkton Terriers to an SJHL league title, Chris married his number one fan Donna, and they moved to Edmonton where he completed his BEd at the University of Alberta. Chris began his teaching career in 1985 at McCoy High School in Medicine Hat. After completing his MA in Curriculum and Administration in 1991 from Gonzaga University, he moved the family (now including son Jordan) to High Prairie to begin his administrative career. Chris began at St. Andrew's in High Prairie as the vice principal and later the principal of school. In 1996, Chris and family travelled south (now with daughter Jamieson) to lead St. Patrick's, a K-5 school in Taber.

In 2001, Chris began his central office career, returning to Medicine Hat Catholic as the new Deputy Superintendent. Chris supervised a number of portfolios including curriculum, AISI, leadership development and human resources. With school board elections in October 2007, Chris was part of the "cleaning house" movement and left the employ of the division in May 2008. Fortunately, Holy Spirit Catholic School Division felt confident in his leadership abilities and hired him first as Deputy Superintendent and then as Superintendent of Schools in June 2009. Chris held this role until his retirement in January 2020. He was blessed to work with committed colleagues and leaders during his tenure who shared his passion for student success.

As a CASS member, Chris served two terms on the provincial executive, held numerous roles in CASSIX and sat on various committees. He was a founding member of the C21 Canada Leadership Academy and was an Educational Partner with Education Research Development and Innovation since 2013.

In retirement, Chris and Donna will eventually move to Red Deer to be close to their grandchildren. He will continue with his writing and offer coaching and consulting support when available between grandparenting gigs.

Lissa Steele



My career in education started in 1988 in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, teaching in both the public and separate school systems. In 1990, I moved to Alberta and began what turned out to be a 30-year career with Chinook's Edge School Division. In Chinook's Edge, I had the opportunity to learn and grow as a classroom teacher, administrator, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Associate Superintendent of Learning Services. I have appreciated each of the roles with which I have been entrusted. I have been able to work with extremely talented people who believe that students come first.

Education and learning have always been at the core of my belief system. I completed my Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from San Diego State in 2000 and my Ed. D. from the University of Calgary in 2010. I have been so privileged to have learned alongside many amazing teachers, administrators and colleagues over the years that have trusted my team and I to move learning forward in Chinook's Edge.

I could not imagine having a career that could have been more rewarding and enjoyable. I am sincerely grateful for the many opportunities for growth, both personally and professionally. I have been blessed to have had so many amazing mentors throughout my career and am eternally grateful for their encouragement, support and willingness to challenge me.

I would like to thank CASS and its members for their mentorship and the many professional learning opportunities that have been provided over the years. In retirement, I look forward to having more time to do the things I have not done enough of – travelling, golfing, camping, hanging out at the cabin in the Kootenays and especially spending time with my husband, Rod.





Gary Strother

Gary Strother retired in February 2020 after 37 years with the Calgary Catholic School District. He served as Chief Superintendent for the past eight years after being an Area Superintendent for the previous ten years.

Gary moved from Montreal to Calgary in 1983 when he began working with the district as a teacher, then served as a vice-principal, principal and area superintendent. Gary has always been committed to academic success and doing what is best for students. He believes in supporting each and every employee in the district to inspire excellence in students.

Gary treasured his 18 years as a member of CASS and especially his time on the Board of CASS. He was always impressed with the dedication of provincial superintendents and was privileged to work with some of the most outstanding educators in Alberta.

His legacy includes a vibrant spiritual and academic culture, a community focused on advocating for children, effective stewardship of resources that benefit students and continual improvements to Catholic education programs and staff performance.

Gary will continue to sit on various local and provincial boards, including the Board of Directors for the Calgary and Area Child Advocacy Centre and the Board of Governors at St. Mary's University.

In his retirement, Gary looks forward to spending time with his wife Kathie and his two sons; all who are or have been in the teaching profession.



Richard Svoboda



Richard began his teaching career in 1989 with the Calgary Catholic School Division.

Through his 30 years with Calgary Catholic, Richard taught physical education and science in both junior high and high school. During this period, his love of sports allowed him to expand his influence on students from the classroom to the courts and fields through coaching every sport possible. In 2007, he moved into school-based administration for 9 years which lead him to positions in central office in Instructional Services as a Supervisor and Director. Richard moved into a senior administration position in 2013 as an Area Superintendent and then transitioned to the Superintendent, Human Resources where he spent the next 7 years before his time with Calgary Catholic ended.

During his time in CASS and CCSSA, Richard was actively involved by being involved in the new member's mentor program, he represented CASS on the working group reviewing the standard for teachers, administrators, and superintendents and the writing committee for the Catholic competency for CCSSA. Richard enjoyed the networking at all CASS events and enjoyed conducting sessions or acting as a facilitator for the HR working group.

Highlights in Richards career include the many opportunities to represent the district and foster positive relations with students, staff, parents, collaborative partners such as Zone 5 CASS HR, external agencies like the ATA and the list goes on. It is the people and the relationships that are the highlight and the legacy that he wants to be remembered for. Richard is very fond of the time he has spent over the past 30 years in Calgary Catholic and looks forward to the journeys that lie ahead.





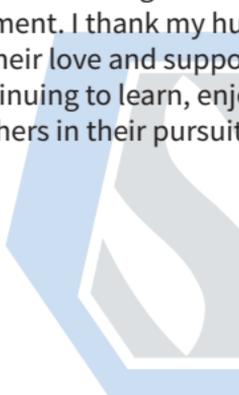
**Colleen
Symyrozum-Watt**

My love for teaching was evident at an early age, playing teacher with my sister and various farm animals as my first students. I graduated from the University of Alberta and began working in a K to 9 school in Smith, Alberta. Then I worked in the County of Westlock during which time I also completed an exchange in New South Wales, Australia. My leadership journey began as a Principal in Busby, Alberta, a vibrant rural community where my family resides today.

After achieving a MEd (Education Leadership), I worked as an Instructional Services Consultant, School Improvement Manager (Alberta Education secondment), Director of Instructional Services, Deputy Superintendent, and Superintendent. I feel privileged to have worked with the school communities to build classrooms wherein all students are valued and can achieve their potential.

I joined CASS and discovered a strong, unique network of educators who inspired me, shared knowledge freely, and supported my growth as a learning leader. I served on the CASS Provincial Board, and as CASS President in 2017. Currently, I am a CASS Director of Leadership Learning and want to sincerely thank Barry Litun and the Boards of Directors for their unwavering support and mentorship. I am grateful to my CASS colleagues who steadfastly promote and bring the CASS starfish story to life on a daily basis.

My passion for teaching and learning has not diminished since playing “teacher” as a young child. It is an honor and privilege to be among those who work with and for students. Best wishes to all my esteemed colleagues for continued health, happiness, and fulfillment. I thank my husband Kevin, and daughter Hayley for their love and support. I look forward to new adventures, continuing to learn, enjoying opportunities to travel, and helping others in their pursuits.



Dr. Paul Wozny



It is truly an honour and joy working in Alberta's exemplary public education system over the last 39 years. I recall in my first year of teaching, back in the Spring of 1981, coaching a Senior Boys' High School Soccer Team and feeling very privileged to encourage, inspire, and support our youth and future through their educational odyssey. How quickly the years of teaching, research, and coaching have progressed, but my joy in our noble profession has always continued and grown. I have been so fortunate to work in such a rewarding profession that at the core is about inspiring success and wellness for every child.

My fabulous wife Addy, and our children, Scott and Paige continue to be the foundation of care and love in our shared journey in life-long learning and mutual support through the years.

The hope in the eyes of every student and parent resonate in my memories and I am so thankful for the incredible people I have worked with along this rewarding public education journey.

Thank you, CASS, for the exemplary collegial support and facilitation in our learning and leadership experiences.





*Best wishes to our
retirees for continued
good health and
happiness for many
years to come.*