

2004 Parents Conference & AGM Program



School Council Members • Education Partners • School Volunteers
School Leaders • Lifelong Learners • Parent Advisory Councils



April 30 - May 2, 2004
Coast Terrace Inn, Edmonton

Alberta Home and School Councils' Association





THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

*Message from Honourable Ralph Klein
Premier of Alberta*

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2004 Alberta Home and School Councils' Association (AHSCA) Parent Conference, "Celebrating Yesterday ... Influencing for Tomorrow".

The AHSCA has a long history as a valued education partner and an effective voice for parents and school councils. This conference presents an opportunity for you to connect with other parents, community supporters and educators who share the vision of meaningful parental and community contribution.

I encourage you to not only network with your colleagues to build upon your existing knowledge, but to also celebrate the many accomplishments of the AHSCA since its inception in 1929.

Best wishes for a productive conference and success in all your future endeavours.



Ralph Klein

Message From the Minister of Learning

Parents are the first and the most influential educators of their children. Every parent plays a leadership role in his or her child's education by promoting early literacy, influencing attitudes and behaviors, and encouraging and supporting learning. Once children are of school age, teachers and principals work collaboratively with parents to ensure student success. Clearly, both families and education professionals have important roles to perform in the educational development of children and youth.

Another important way parents contribute to their children's education, and to the success of our learning system as a whole, is through their involvement in school councils. The Alberta Home and School Councils' Association (AHSCA) encourages parents, community members, teachers, and students to actively participate in their school community by becoming involved with their school councils.

By participating in the 2004 AHSCA Parents Conference, your commitment to student success and educational excellence is evident. I encourage you to continue playing an active role in education. As primary leaders and mentors of today's children, it is within your power to positively influence the future of Alberta students. Thank you for your on-going support and dedication to our learning system.



Dr. Lyle Öberg
Minister

AHSCA President's Welcome



It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you to the 2004 *Celebrating Yesterday...Influencing for Tomorrow* conference to celebrate 75 years of parental involvement and positive advocacy work by AHSCA.

Things are very exciting in education these days, with the Commission on Learning recommendations, the renewed funding framework, improvements to high school diploma exams, and here, this weekend, a professional development conference for parents!

This weekend will be a great opportunity to meet with old friends, to make new, to share experiences and to learn from others. This conference is for us, as parents, an excellent opportunity to enter into the lifelong learning experiences that we encourage our children to embrace. We will be provided with information on how to influence change with confidence, how to get our messages out and how to interpret media messages.

With the resources and knowledge available this weekend, it is my hope we will *all leave inspired and motivated* to continue working towards the best possible public education for Alberta children.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Orvella Small'.

Orvella Small, President



Congratulations on your 75th Anniversary Conference "Celebrating Yesterday - Influencing for Tomorrow!"

This is an apt opportunity to celebrate the many years of faithful, dedicated, persistent, courageous parent volunteer efforts promoting genuine parent involvement in all its breadth and depth for the sole benefit of all Alberta children.

While it is a time to celebrate, there is still much work to be done. Today's society still, despite years of research to the contrary, resists and often ignores the critical importance of parents' role in the life of their children. Isolated and disaffected youth troubles us all and creates crisis in our schools. Attachment theorists such as Richard Neufeld consider this the most difficult problem of our times. It is time to redouble our efforts and influence the education and social agenda of our schools. Parents and families are key in developing safe, healthy, intellectually stimulating learning environments where children can grow into the confident, caring talented and educated Canadian citizens parents desire. While parents across Canada have many successes, the Alberta Home and School Councils' Association is a model for others in its business model focus.



Canadian Home and School Federation is still, thanks to the many dedicated volunteer contributions of its members, an independent thinking organization focused only on the best interests of children. Each of you are part of this wonderful network.

I thank you all and commend you for your tireless efforts. Enjoy a wonderful exciting conference. Remember the children.

Kind regards,

Silvia Dyck, CHSF President

Friday Evening

President's Reception

Keynote speakers **Mike Davenport** and **Hon. Dr. Lyle Oberg** will provide a progress report regarding Commission recommendations. Mike will speak as a member of Alberta's Commission on Learning. Dr. Oberg will update us on government's commitment to the recommendations, ongoing prioritizing and implementation to date.



Mike Davenport has a wide range of experiences in the education field that encompasses B.C. and Alberta. He has taught Kindergarten to Grade 12 and has served as principal and vice principal. He has also served as assistant superintendent in Fort Nelson and for 15 years as superintendent of Fort Vermilion School Division. Under his leadership, that school division became a provincial leader in many fields, including school and achievement and technology. He has also been instrumental in the implementation of the Carver model of governance.

Since his retirement in 2002, Mike has formed Davenport and Associates, an educational consulting group that has been active in infrastructure, technology and policy development. In the 2002/03 school year, he served as a member of Alberta's Commission on Learning.

Hon. Dr. Oberg was born and raised in Alberta. He is a graduate of the University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine.

Prior to being appointed Minister of Learning in May 1999, Dr. Oberg served as Minister of Family and Social Services. He is an appointed member of the Treasury Board and the Standing Policy Committee on Learning and Employment. Dr. Oberg is an active member of the Canadian Ministers of Education.



Saturday

Education Fair

On Saturday, take advantage of allocated times to view an array of products and services related to learning. Education Fair presenters will provide you with new ideas to take back and share with your school council and parent community. AHSCA welcomes the participation of the following companies/organizations:

- Alberta Apprenticeship & Industry Training
- Alberta Human Resources and Employment
- Alphanet Systems Inc.
- Canadian Heritage - Exchanges Canada Program
- Canadian Parents For French
- Childspace Playgrounds
- Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium
- Ever Active Schools
- Fundelicious Fundraising Inc.
- Habitat Systems Inc.
- Image Signs
- Indigo & Chapters Books
- Lamontagne Chocolates
- LearnAlberta.ca
- Learning Resources Centre
- Lifetouch Canada
- N.A.I.T. Bilingual Business Administration
- Positive Playgrounds
- Raising Kids...for the fun of it!
- Reachout Canada
- Regal Fundraising
- The Alberta Library – Online Reference Centre

Conference Schedule

Friday, April 30

5:30 - 7:00 pm	Registration	Foyer (level P2)
6:30 - 10:30	President's Reception	Ballroom B/C
7:00 - 7:30	Entertainment: <i>St. Augustine's Royal Court</i>	
7:30 - 9:00	Keynote Speakers: <i>Mike Davenport</i> , Commission on Learning <i>Hon. Dr. Lyle Oberg</i> , Minister of Learning	

Saturday, May 1

8:00 - 8:45 am	Registration	Foyer (level P2)
8:00 - 8:45	<i>Light Continental Breakfast</i>	Ballroom B/C
8:00 - 9:15	EDUCATION FAIR	Foyer
9:15 - 9:30	Opening & Introductions	Ballroom B/C
9:30 - 10:30	Influencing With Confidence Part A: <i>Godfrey Huybregts</i>	
10:30 - 10:45	EDUCATION FAIR/ Coffee Break	Foyer
10:45 - 11:30	Influencing With Confidence Part B: <i>Panel of Parents</i>	Ballroom B/C
11:30 - 12:00	EDUCATION FAIR & Scavenger Hunt	Foyer
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch	
	Special Guest: <i>Maria David-Evans</i> , Deputy Minister of Learning	
1:00 - 2:30	Breakout Sessions:	
	Getting Your Message Across: <i>Bonnie Stelmach</i>	Ballroom A
	How Much About What I Read Should I Believe? <i>Godfrey Huybregts</i>	Ballroom B/C
2:30 - 3:00	EDUCATION FAIR/ Coffee Break	Foyer
3:00 - 4:15	Full Group Wrap-up	Ballroom B/C
4:15 - 4:30	Closing Remarks	Ballroom B/C
4:40 - 5:00	EDUCATION FAIR <i>last viewing opportunity</i>	Foyer

75th Anniversary Banquet

6:15 - 7:00	Cocktails and Entertainment	Imperial Ballroom
	<i>Edmonton and District Pipe Band</i>	
6:45 - 10:00	Banquet and Awards Ceremony	
	Special Guests: <i>Astounding Announcers</i> <i>Music by Tamara Rivers and Tiana Lorenz-Turner</i>	

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, May 2

7:45 - 8:45 am	AGM Registration <i>Light Continental Breakfast</i>	Ballroom B/C
8:45 - 12:00	Opening; Member Resolutions; Calls for Nominations for Board of Directors	
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch	Ballroom A
1:00 - 3:00	Member resolutions continued; Installation of Board Members	

Saturday Morning Plenary

Influencing with Confidence - Part A:



As senior partners in the education of children, parents have a duty to ensure school policies and programs are appropriate and meet their children's needs. But taking meaningful action that leads to positive change is not easy. Knowing when and how to advocate for change often determines success or failure. Join public policy strategist and communications expert Godfrey Huybregts in our morning plenary, as he unlocks the mysteries of influencing for positive change.

Godfrey Huybregts, an Accredited Business Communicator, is a partner and senior consultant with Marcomm Works, an Edmonton-based company that provides strategic planning, issues management, media and government relations, public policy and public consultation support throughout western Canada.

A former journalist, Godfrey's 20-year career in communications has included senior management positions in government and non-profit organizations. He was a member of the Alberta Public Affairs Bureau and Communications Director of Family and Social Services before entering private practice in 1990. Since then, he has provided issues management, media training and communications counsel to dozens of private and public sector organizations including school boards, universities and colleges, Alberta Learning, Alberta School Boards Association, and the Alberta Home and School Councils' Association.

Godfrey has won numerous awards for communications planning and marketing, including a national award in 2000, for an education awareness project. A native Albertan, Godfrey lives in Sherwood Park with his wife and two school-aged children.

Influencing with Confidence - Part B:

Influencing with Confidence continues with the voices of parents sharing their stories and experiences in this interactive question and answer session.

Facilitator:



Ruth D. LeBlanc, B.Ed, M.Ed, is known for many years of heartfelt service for the good of children, families and educators. In a diverse array of positions, she has applied a student-

centered focus consistently and passionately. Her enthusiasm is infectious, and she has been a popular facilitator, change agent and speaker, working extensively and intensively with students, teachers, school leaders and parents.

Over the years Ruth has been a superintendent, associate superintendent, principal, consultant and teacher. She has experience with urban schools (St. Albert and Edmonton) and with rural schools (Pembina Hills and Lakeland divisions).

Ruth was born in northern Alberta. She is semi-retired and self-employed in Ruth D. LeBlanc Consulting, Ltd., mentoring new principals, writing and facilitating leadership initiatives. She says her legacy is her daughter, Dana, a primary teacher with Edmonton public schools.

Panelists:



Hear about an individual parent's initiative to pursue an alternative programming solution when the school council chose not to pursue it.

Lorraine Hill resides in Spruce Grove, has two children, works, and has contributed and participated in school council work for many years. Lorraine is presently active on a committee that is involving parents in the building and development of a new school. She has experience as an AHSCA committee representative, Regional Director and Vice-President.



Hear about an individual school council that worked to pull together a district wide literacy/numeracy conference (free to parents).

Wendy Kiever's list of credits includes longtime school volunteer, school council, AHSCA and community involvement experience. She does this with four kids, multiple pets, a full-time work contract and a grandchild. Wendy is giving serious consideration to running as an Edmonton Public School Board trustee this fall.



Hear about a school council's initiative to develop a solid volunteer recruitment program in their school.

Heidi Schreiner has served as part of the Grassland School Council for the past seven years and as an AHSCA representative on a variety of committees over the past three years. A mother of four and part-time university student, Heidi has a special interest in community building through parent leadership and involvement in public education. Heidi is a recipient of a 2004 AHSCA citation which, recognizes her outstanding contributions to AHSCA.

Saturday Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Getting Your Message Across

This session will help those who are interested in being effective advocates for their children and their children's school. Understanding your own and others' values, assumptions and experiences is key to the messages you send and receive. Beginning with what lies beneath and building up to practical how-to's, we will talk about ways you can create win-win communication situations so that you can be a positive influence in the education system.



Bonnie Stelmach has taught social studies, English, history, economics and art, locally and abroad. She was the district AISI coordinator at Holy Family Catholic in Peace River and oversaw the success of an AISI project based on the work of Joyce Epstein.

Bonnie currently works as a research assistant for the AISI Coordinator at the U of A. She is teaching Ethics and Law in Teaching to 4th year education students and completing her doctorate. She currently holds a B.Ed and an M.A. in Education Philosophy. In her off time, Bonnie runs and volunteers as a "learn to run" group leader.

How Much About What I Read Do I Believe?

The print media is not objective. Neither are the people they interview. Balanced coverage really means the sharing of two different opinions and some select facts. Readers must seek alternative sources of information to get the full story. Join former journalist and media expert **Godfrey Huybregts** as he shares the inside story of "What makes news?" His session includes survival tools to guard against media indoctrination.

Entertainment

St. Augustine's Royal Court, directed by Lisa Golding, Music Teacher



This energetic group is a combination of two school ensembles and features 47 choir members (grades 5-9), an actor and two sound technicians, from St. Augustine Elementary/Junior High School in Ponoka, Alberta. They have performed at a variety of events in our school and surrounding community. Excited to make this first out-of-town performance here at the AHSCA 75th Anniversary Conference, the performance is an excerpt from their school's spring concert, to be performed in May.

The program is in its fourth year and has been greatly supported by the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement. The following supporters are acknowledged in making this appearance possible: Wedins Subway and Jamie Burke, Mary Kay Consultant.

Grade 5/6 Choir

Haley Amendt	Taylor Horlock	Shayna Ranganathan
Jena Casper	Richelle Kraft	Shcalyn Reed
Kelly Cire	Kayla Lockhart	Janelle Stolson
Tyler Davis	Lisa Marie McLennan	Willow VanWolde
Lina Hegberg	Payden Miller	Shelby Waknuk
Deanna Henderson	Stefanie Morel	Kelli Wass
Kalin Herbach	Sarah Olsen	
Cheyenne Hinkley	Cynthia Poulin	

Choral Option

Kirsten Abt	Heather Holman	Melissa Raugust
Alycia Bailey	Shentel Kerr	Diane Richard
Abby Clarkin	Stacey Dosteroski	Sydni Seibel
Kyra Crane	Terrhen LeFort	Erin Sieben
Ashleigh George	Leah Miedema	Kelsey Slater
Jade Gervais	Meghan Nelson	Collette Vogel
Savannah Gowalko	Kimberly Parent	Dimberly Wass
Kayla-Dawn Hagemann	Ashleigh Pitt	Candace Woolley

Sound Technicians - Jesse King and Blake Sande; Actor - Gabe Nelson

Edmonton and District Pipe Band

This pipe band was formed in 1989 and currently consists of 42 pipers and 23 drummers, making it one of the largest pipe bands in Canada. This group does events and concerts, as well as local parades throughout Alberta. In 2001, the band was the Alberta Aggregate Champion in Grades II, III and IV, as ranked by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association. Alberta Home and School Councils' Association is honored to welcome several of the band members.

Astounding Announcers, coached by Dawn Sundell

The *Astounding Announcers* are Grade 3 students from Parkview School, Edmonton, who are making quite a name for themselves by introducing guest speakers at school, community, district and civic events. Because of their poise and confidence at the podium, these eight and nine year old speakers have been booked to introduce at events that range in size from twenty to five hundred people, performing an average of fifty 'gigs' a year. They are truly astounding! Tonights Grade 3 *Astounding announcers* are: Erin Carter, Ian Harriott, Laura Cockwill, and Curtis Bouwsema.

Saturday Dinner Music

Tamara Rivers (flautist) and Tiana Lorenz-Turner (pianist) are music educators with the Edmonton Catholic School District. Both have experience teaching music in elementary and secondary classrooms and currently have been given the challenge of starting new band programs at the junior high level. Tamara and Tiana have performed together for years in instrumental ensembles as well as in choirs and are excited to be together once again to share their love of music with everyone.

2004 Parents Conference



Supporters

AHSCA gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following businesses and organizations:

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