



MAPC Newsletter



Fall 2010

Phone: 956-1770 Toll Free: 1-877-290-4702 Website: www.mapc.mb.ca Email: info@mapc.mb.ca

President's Message

To say that MAPC has been making changes the last few months would be a bit of an understatement. When an organization starts to review the way they conduct business and the way in which they govern themselves; two things happen. One, you realize that the processes you thought were in place, aren't there or are not up to the standards they should be and two, the more you change things the more resistant people become to those changes. That is human nature.

The board of MAPC have been doing just that, a full organizational overhaul and the excitement this has generated in educational circles, in our members, our funders, our educational partners and ourselves, is what has sustained us through some of the more difficult revisions made. As we look at governance areas such as transparency, accountability, communication strategies and strategic thinking we have been slowly but steadily plotting a course that will secure ourselves as the true voice of parents in the public education system in the province and will bring us on par with our educational stakeholders.

This has not occurred without some criticisms and concerns. It has been suggested that we are becoming too professional and that we are not as closely in tune with our membership. We argue that we do not have a choice but to be as effective and smooth functioning as our members and our funders demand us to be. We are accountable to our funders to justify and continue with our funding dollars. Without their support we would not be able to do what we do for our parents and their children. We are also accountable to our membership in that we must ensure that the processes we have in place are ethical, relevant and sustainable so that, what we offer makes a difference in how they are able to function and provide them with the supports to truly be the strongest parental influence in their school communities.

To that end, there are a number of areas that we are working on that will enhance what we do and will provide guidance and direction for our member parent advisory councils. We have also embarked on a strategic planning endeavour that will help us achieve the goals we have set and that have been identified by our members as areas we need to focus on. Here are some of the projects being undertaken by the MAPC board of directors and staff:

- Continuing the development of a Parental Engagement Survey for Manitoba Schools
- Creating a Best Practices Guide for Parent Councils
- Developing additional Workshop Modules for Parent Advisory Councils
- Reviewing the MAPC Advocacy Project
- Teleconferencing with the Western Provincial Group including Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Yukon
- Dialoguing to update the Advisory Council for School Leadership (ACSL) Regulation
- Coordinating Provincial Tours and the Chairperson's Breakfast
- Planning MAPC's 100th Year of Parental Involvement Celebration in 2012

We could not do what we do without the support and guidance of our members and our partners. Please feel free to give us your feedback and suggestions for improving the quality of what we deliver and who we are as an organization. Your comments and supportive direction is what will continue to allow us to grow and will confirm our role as the voice of parents in our province.

Judith Cameron
President, Manitoba Association of Parent Councils

The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and enhancing meaningful involvement and participation of parents in order to improve the education and well-being of children in Manitoba.

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...we have been slowly but steadily plotting a course that will secure ourselves as the true voice of parents in the public education system in the province...

Judith Cameron

Dates to Remember

November is Diabetes, Crohn's Disease and Colitis, Haemophilia, Family Violence, Adoption, and CPR Awareness Month

November 01—07—National Down Syndrome Awareness Week
November 01—05—National Media Literacy Week
November 05—11—National Veterans Week

November 08—National Aboriginal Veterans Day
November 11—Remembrance Day
November 14—World Diabetes Day
November 15—19—Bullying Awareness Week
November 14—20—Addictions Awareness Week
November 16—International Day of Tolerance
November 20—Universal and National Child Day
November 21—World Television Day
November 24—30—National Home Fire Safety Week
November 16—Eid al Adha
November 27—Ukrainian Famine and Genocide Memorial Day (Holodomor)

December 01—World AIDS Day
December 02—International Day of the Abolition of Slavery
December 03—International Day of Disabled Persons
December 05—International Volunteer Day
December 06—National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
December 07—International Civil Aviation Day
December 10—International Human Rights Day
December 21—28—Chanukah
December 07—January 04—Muharram
December 25—Christmas Day
December 26—Boxing Day
December 26—January 01—Kwanza
December 31—New Year's Eve

January is Alzheimer Awareness Month

January 01—New Year Day
January 17—Martin Luther King Day
January 22—Chairperson's Breakfast for MAPC Members
January 27—Family Literacy Day

Thank you MCSC!

MAPC would like to thank the **Manitoba Community Services Council** for their financial assistance with the purchase of our Xerox Work Centre and binding system!

Quote for the day...

"To know how to suggest is the great art of teaching. To attain it we must be able to guess what will interest; we must learn to read the childish soul as we might a piece of music. Then, by simply changing the key, we keep up the attraction and vary the song."

[Henri Frédéric Amiel](#) (1821-1881) Swiss writer.

MAPC NEEDS YOUR FEEDBACK

The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils is committed to its' members and is striving to increase participation at our Annual General Meeting and Conference. Despite our best intentions, we are challenged to get full representation of the majority of our members at this spring event. Do we need to improve communication? Do we need to send out the invitation earlier? Is your Parent Advisory Council struggling?

MAPC is inviting you to share your challenges with us so we can best plan our AGM and Conference and increase attendance. We want to know your thoughts on how we might achieve our goal.

Please call the office at 204-956-1770 (toll free 1-877-290-4702) or email us at info@mapc.mb.ca to give us your thoughts or ideas on how we can improve participation.

Thank you for your assistance!

Parent Advisory Councils Best Practices Guide

MAPC is often asked questions from Parent Councils regarding governance practices. *"How do we create a constitution?" How often does our PAC need to make amendments or update our constitution? Does MAPC have any templates our PAC can use?"*

These are just a few of the questions we receive on a regular basis. We'd like you to know that, as Judith mentioned in her President's Message, we are currently in the process of developing a *"Best Practices Guide"* that will lend support to PACs and help ensure successful, meaningful groups across Manitoba.

In the meantime, please visit http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/support/school_partnerships/index.html for a handbook entitled, *"School Partnerships: A Guide for Parents, Schools and Communities"*. In it you will find useful information on parental involvement, the Advisory Council for School Leadership Regulation as well as the broad scope of roles and responsibilities.

Watch for our *Best Practices Guide* in the new school year!

Did you know....

In 1895, the first parent/teacher groups were organized in Baddeck, Nova Scotia by Mabel Hubbard Bell, wife of Alexander Graham Bell. Mabel was instrumental in getting together a group of parents to form a Parents Association that would address issues regarding their children's' education and other needs. More than 100 years later, Parent Councils across Canada continue their commitment to helping provide a better standard of life, education and well-being for all children.

... MAPC's Mission Statement is to support, promote, and enhance meaningful involvement and participation of parents in order to improve the education and well-being of children in Manitoba

**Ask MAPC About
Updating Constitutions**

"I've recently taken over as Chairperson for our Parent Council and noticed our constitution hasn't been touched since its creation in 1996. How often should we update it?"

Updating your constitution should be done on a regular basis in order to ensure that it still meets the needs of your Parent Council and school community. It can take as little time as giving it an annual quick review to ensure that it is still current and relevant to your group, or can become a larger project where a dedicated group or individual identifies specific items needed to address or update a topic more appropriately. Make constitutional review a regular item for your group based on the needs and time resources that are available.

Do you have a question you would like to see addressed in the newsletter? Would you like to know more about helping your group to become more effective? Please email info@mapc.mb.ca or fax your request to the MAPC office at (204) 956-7780. Specific groups will not be identified within the newsletter.

- Goodbye -

The MAPC Board of Directors wishes to announce that **Sharon Machinski** has had to step down from her role as a MAPC Director. We would like to thank Sharon for her many years of MAPC support and contributions. As well, MAPC says "farewell" and "thank you" to MAPC Director **Doug Zintel** after many years of service. All the best to Sharon and Doug on whatever endeavours they pursue next!

Chairperson's Breakfast

MAPC cordially invites all Parent Advisory Council Chairpersons to a breakfast at the Victoria Inn and Conference Centre, on Saturday, January 22, 2011. You must be a current MAPC member to attend. Please take this time to complete your registration or call the office to confirm if your school has registered. More details on the breakfast to come...

Boys and Girls—Of Course They Learn Differently!

We are *delighted* to announce that Barry MacDonald, leading educator and author of *Boy Smarts—Mentoring Boys for Success at School*, will be the key-note speaker at the MAPC AGM and Conference on Saturday, May 7, 2011!

Barry is a champion for strong families and strong school communities and is a sought-after speaker. We're very excited to hear what he has to say!



Raising a Digital Generation: Media Awareness Network Launches New Tutorial for Parents

Media Awareness Network (MNet) recently released *e-Parenting Tutorial: Keeping up with your kids' online activities*, an online resource to help parents better understand and become actively involved in their children's online lives.

This engaging interactive tool helps parents increase their awareness of the ways that children and teens are using the Internet for learning, entertainment and socializing, and the issues they may be encountering along the way. Through the exploration of five key themes – homework, cyber bullying, marketing, online relationships and excessive use – parents can develop the knowledge and skills they need to help their children navigate the Internet safely, wisely and responsibly.

This practical resource takes a light-hearted approach while tackling serious issues, with downloadable tip sheets and links to further resources to help parents out. The key message throughout is that parents need to talk with their kids about their online explorations and work together to develop ground rules that everyone can live with.

e-Parenting Tutorial is available for free on Media Awareness Network's Web site (www.media-awareness.ca). It is also available on Be Web Aware (www.bewebaware.ca), an Internet safety Web site for parents developed by MNet in partnership with Bell.

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendar!

2011 MAPC Annual General Meeting and Conference:
It's Our Time—Strengthening the Parental Voice in Education

Save the date and plan on attending on May 6 and 7, 2011 at the
Victoria Inn and Conference Centre, Winnipeg

Welcome!

*The MAPC Board of Directors would like to welcome Renee Ritchot to the MAPC Office as its' new Administrative Assistant!
We look forward to working with you, Renee!*

New Fax Number

**Please note that MAPC has recently changed its
office fax number to 204-956-7780.**

MAPC REGISTRATION

Thank you to the schools/divisions that have sent in your completed registration forms. If your school has not yet done so, visit our website at www.mapc.mb.ca to download a copy, or call the office at 204-956-1770.

MAPC Board of Directors

Executive Board

Judith Cameron - President
Alanna Rawluk—Vice-President
Linda Meads—Treasurer
Khalid Mahmood—Secretary

Directors

Milli Khan
Marilyn Kolody
Martin Simmons
Ethel Raine

Winnipeg Office

Naomi Kruse—Executive Director and Advocacy
Project Coordinator
Renee Ritchot—Administrative Assistant

Why Does Membership With MAPC Matter?

By registering as a member of Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC), you continue to ensure that the parental voice in Manitoba's education system is carried to the government and other provincial education organizations.

Membership benefits also include:

- Workshops and professional development opportunities for parent councils
- Seasonal newsletters and semi-monthly e-bulletins
- Reduced fees to attend the Annual Spring Conference
- Participation at the Annual General Meeting where *you* have the opportunity to vote on behalf of *your* parent council about matters concerning parents involved in the education system in Manitoba.

Call the MAPC office at (204) 956-1770 or toll free at 1-877-290-4702, or visit our website at www.mapc.mb.ca, to learn more about *your* membership with Manitoba Association of Parent Councils.

Contacting MAPC

If your parent group is considering booking a presentation - or is looking for some support and resources to help run your group more effectively - please contact the MAPC office and we will put you in touch with your local representative or another director who would be more than happy to assist you!

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