



MAPC Newsletter



March 2011

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

President's Report

As promised in the last newsletter, I would like to give an update on the internal audit being conducted by the province. To this point, all financial and operational matters have been reviewed by the auditing team. Extensive conversations have taken place with the entire board and staff to review governing practices including leadership, internal controls and policies, evaluative tools and governing strategies. From this point, the auditors will prepare a preliminary report to the province and a draft should be ready for our review late June or early July 2011. Once that initial review takes place, we will be able to share the recommendations from the audit to our membership. I will keep you informed on all aspects of this audit process and appreciate the cooperation and input of our board, staff and the audit team from Internal Audit Services. MAPC is also considering a number of policy recommendations not stemming from the audit, to be considered at our board retreat that will allow us to evaluate and review the effectiveness of our strategic planning process. These may include the formation of an internal review committee, a more structured grievance procedure, actionable processes under each objective we set and others. The audit has been an intensive but ultimately satisfying endeavour and we have been encouraged by the responses and progress made to this point. A more thorough update will be made to membership as soon as we are able to.

Judith Cameron
President, MAPC

MAPC AGM and Conference May 6 & 7, 2011 - Early Bird Registration Ends March 31st!

MAPC is looking forward to engaging with parents on May 6 & 7th with an exciting and informative agenda. The conference is being built around the theme, *"It's Our Time - Strengthening the Parental Voice in Education"*. There is still time to take advantage of the reduced conference fee by sending in your registration by **March 31, 2011**. Visit the MAPC website at www.mapc.mb.ca to print off a registration form and obtain further information about the conference.



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*Judith Cameron
President, MAPC*

Dates to Remember

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness, Kidney Disease, Help Fight Liver Disease, Nutrition Month, Red Cross, and Learning Disabilities Awareness Month

March 08—International Women's Day
March 08—United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace
March 14—Commonwealth Day
March 17—St. Patrick's Day
March 21—International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 22—World Water Day
March 23—World Metrological Day
March 27—World Theatre Day

April is Cancer Awareness, Autism Awareness, Stay Alert—Stay Safe, Dental Health, and Parkinson's Disease Month

April 07 - World Health Day
April 09 - National Day of Remembrance of the Battle of Vimy Ridge
April 10 - 16 - National Wildlife Week
April 22—Earth Day Canada
April 23—Canadian Writers' Day
April 28—National Day of Mourning
April 28—Day of Mourning for Canadians Killed on the Job
April 29—International Dance Day

May is Allergy Awareness, Hepatitis, Cystic Fibrosis, Multiple Sclerosis, Speech and Hearing Awareness, Community Living, and Asian Heritage Month

May 1 - 7 - Emergency Preparedness Week
May 3—World Press Freedom Day
May 9—World Red Cross Day
May 9 - 15 - National Police Week
May 8 —Mother's Day
May 12—Manitoba Day
May 12—Canada Health Day
May 15—International Day of the Family
May 17—World Telecommunication Day
May 18—International Museum Day
May 22—International Day for Biological Diversity
May 23—Victoria Day
May 25—National Missing Children's Day
May 25—28—Aboriginal Awareness Week
May 31—World No Tobacco Day

Quote for the day...

"You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives."

Clay P. Bedford

Do you Have a Fundraising Success Story?

This year's MAPC Conference will feature a workshop on Fundraising and we'd like to create a fundraising ideas sheet to give to participants. Please help us and other PACs by providing your input to the following questions:

What was your most successful fundraiser? What made it successful?

What was the biggest challenge you've had with a fundraiser? Were you able to overcome it, and how?

Please email your response to info@mapc.mb.ca or fax to **204-956-7780**. You may also mail in your responses. Responses must be received by **April 22, 2011** in order to have your answers included.



Join Manitoba's Conversation About Education



The Government of Manitoba is inviting you to share your ideas on ways to make Manitoba's Education System better. Parents have already done so and it has resulted in such initiatives as the announced revisions to report cards and standardized in-service days! Have your voice heard by completing their online survey where you give your opinions on what matters most to you when it comes to your child's education. From improving quality and results, to making schools more parent-friendly, Manitoba Education is giving you the opportunity to have input. Visit http://www.gov.mb.ca/conversation_edu/index.html to get started on the survey!

Did you know....

That Home and School and Parent Teacher Federation of Manitoba Inc. passed a resolution in 1967 to request the Department of Education to affect a change in the MB Schools Act to allow reservation aboriginals to have the right to vote and be elected as trustees in school districts where their children were attending?

MAPC is celebrating 100 years of parental involvement in Manitoba Schools in 2012!

ASK MAPC

"My child and I are experiencing a significant challenge with the school. I heard that you operate an Advocacy Project. What is it? How can you help me?"

The MAPC Advocacy Project (MAPCAP) was established over ten years ago to assist parents experiencing a challenge in Manitoba's education system. The goal is to help parents work towards a resolution which makes sense for the specific difficulty being experienced by the child and family.

MAPCAP is operated out of MAPC's Winnipeg office by the Advocacy Project Coordinator. The Advocacy Project Coordinate takes the incoming calls from parents and then proceeds to assist with addressing the problem and determine whether a volunteer advocate needs to be assigned to the case. Volunteer advocates are available to act as a resource and support to the parent and assist the parent with items such as meeting preparation, locating and understanding policies, and helping to determine appropriate steps to take when addressing the challenge. Volunteer advocates do most of their work by phone and occasionally in person - due to time and travel resource limitations. Most importantly, volunteer advocates *listen* to your concern. They are parents - just like you - who are there to support you as you weave your way through the many layers of the education system.

ARE YOU ATTENDING THE MAPC AGM AND CONFERENCE ON MAY 6 AN 7TH?

If so, have you signed up for the workshops, "Your PAC and its Constitution" or "Your PAC and its Financials"? Judith Cameron, MAPC President and facilitator, is inviting you to submit any questions you may have prior to the conference so we may better prepare for a productive workshop. Please email your questions to info@mapc.mb.ca or fax to **204-956-7780** with the subject line, *Questions for Constitution or Financials Workshops*. Please submit your questions by Friday, April 22, 2011.

New Presentations Available from MAPC for Membership!

The MAPC Board of Directors has finished the development and redevelopment of the following presentations, now available to our member groups!

- Roles and Responsibilities of the PAC
- Volunteerism
- Effective Meetings

Also available, but scheduled for updating are:

- The MAPC Advocacy Project
- What is MAPC?

Proposed topics for consideration in the near future are:

- Conflict Resolution and your PAC

If you have any questions—or would like to suggest a topic for future consideration - please contact the MAPC office.

MAPC Board of Directors Nominations

It's your chance to participate in a leadership role at the provincial level!

MAPC is looking to increase and diversify its Board of Directors!
Are you looking for an opportunity to increase your involvement?

For more information, go to www.mapc.mb.ca and download the nomination package by clicking on **Board Director Nominations** on the homepage.

If you have any questions, please contact the MAPC office.
We would be happy to have a member of the
MAPC Nominations Committee get in touch with you!

Are You Receiving the MAPC E-Bulletin?

Help MAPC improve our communication! The E-bulletin is a publication mailed out to Parent Council groups on a bi-monthly basis. It has regular features like upcoming events and helps keep you informed on the latest MAPC happenings! The E-Bulletins are sent via your school office but MAPC can reach you directly if you provide us with your personal email address. Don't forget to let us know, too, if you have a change in email during the school year. All MAPC records are again updated annually in September with new registrations - be sure to fill out the contact information then if you want to receive the E-Bulletin directly.

Judy Aiken Memorial Award - Nominations Due by March 25th!

Do you know an individual who exemplifies dedication and volunteerism serving on your Parent Council?

If so, please visit the MAPC website to download an application form to nominate a deserving individual for the 2011 Judy Aiken Memorial Award.

*Please note that applications must be received by
March 25, 2011 in order to be considered.*

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection is a charitable organization dedicated to the personal safety of all children. Their goal is to reduce child victimization by providing programs and services to Canadians.

Educate yourself and help educate your children on all aspects of personal safety.

Check out their website at www.protectchildren.ca.

Healthy Food in Schools

We've probably all heard that education and health are intimately linked. But does your child's school have a Nutrition Policy? Healthy Schools, Government of Manitoba, provides wonderful resources to get your Parent Group talking about the importance of healthy eating at school. There is information about how to create a healthy lunch for your child, a school nutrition survey and much more. Additionally, there is a terrific resource you can download that will assist you with developing a Nutrition Policy in your school - it includes real samples from Manitoba schools.

There is even a *School Nutrition Information Line* to offer you further support in developing guidelines and policies. Call 1-888-547-0535 to get help from the school nutrition support team. Visit <http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthyschools/foodinschools/index.html> for further information to see how you can have a part in promoting healthy habits that last a lifetime.

New Fax Number

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

INVITATION TO ALL MAPC MEMBERS

Are you attending the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils Annual General Meeting and Conference on May 6 and 7, 2011? Do you have a question about education that you want answered? Does your Parent Group have a question about the Provincial Government's future plans for Manitoba Education?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above, we invite you to submit your question for **Honorable Nancy Allan, Minister of Education** to address during a one hour, facilitated question and answer period on Saturday, May 7, 2011. *(Please note that due to time restrictions, it is possible that not all questions submitted will be addressed).*

Deadline for submissions is **Monday April 18, 2011**. Submit this form to the MAPC office via email at info@mapc.mb.ca, fax (204) 956-7780 or mail.

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!

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