

November 14, 2018

## **Prairie Valley Board of Education acknowledges Local Government Week**

November 12 to 16 has been proclaimed Local Government Week by the Minister of Government Relations.

“As locally elected officials, the Prairie Valley Board of Education is proud to recognize the first-ever Local Government Week. On behalf of my fellow Board members I would like to acknowledge the important contributions of locally elected officials across Saskatchewan,” said Janet Kotylak, Board chair.

The Prairie Valley School Division is governed by a locally-elected 10 member Board of Education. The Division is organized into 10 subdivisions for the purpose of elections, but once elected, the members of the Board of Education represent all students in the Division and are committed to providing the best education possible for each and every student.

“Boards of education play an important role. We are the voice of the public in public education, bringing the voices of parents, school community councils and community members to the board table,” said Kotylak.

Board members also oversee the corporate functions of the school division through planning, monitoring and accountability processes, with the goal of ensuring high-quality educational opportunities for students and meeting high standards of public accountability.

“We know that educational attainment is an important determinant of the future employment and life prospects of students. As well, an educated citizenry is essential to the future social and economic well-being of Saskatchewan. The stronger our schools are, the stronger our province is,” Kotylak said. “That’s why the Prairie Valley Board of Education is committed to a provincial education system that provides equitable opportunities for all students to learn, grow and succeed.”

The Prairie Valley Board of Education is currently focused on:

- Stable, adequate and equitable operating funding
- Safe, functional and modern education infrastructure
- High-quality educational opportunities for all students, no matter their geographic location or personal circumstances
- Closing the achievement gap between First Nations and Métis students and non-First Nations and Métis students
- Providing a rural voice in the development of the Education Sector Strategic Plan beyond 2020

“On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our staff, students, families and community members for their continued support of public education in Saskatchewan. Working together, we can make a difference in the lives of students, families, communities, our province and the world beyond,” Kotylak said.

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The call to recognize Local Government Week with an official proclamation from the province emerged through discussions between Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) as an excellent opportunity to increase awareness and engagement in the province's systems of local democracy.

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*Prairie Valley School Division serves approximately 8,500 students in 39 schools throughout southeast Saskatchewan. In support of the vision "Leadership in Learning and Life", the Division offers a high-quality education that provides students with the tools to reach their potential.*

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