

A Message from the Prairie Valley Board of Education

I have a lot to share with you this month, as we have been very busy with Board organization, awards ceremonies and provincial proclamations celebrating local governments.

In November, we held our Board organizational meeting. I would like to thank my fellow Board members for the opportunity to continue serving as Board Chair for another year. Trustee Judy Bradley was also elected by acclamation to the position of Vice-Chair. I am very honoured to serve in this position and I know that Judy is as well. As locally elected Board members, we represent the voices of our communities and work to provide equitable opportunities for all students in the Prairie Valley School Division, no matter their geographic location or personal circumstances.



Bert was nominated for the award by the Prairie Valley Board of Education. Pictured at the SSBA's annual banquet and awards ceremony are Bert and some of his Board colleagues (L to R): Judy Bradley, Vice Chair; Janet Kotylak, Chair; Bert de Gooijer; Verne Barber; Terry Berglund; Frank Thauberger.

Long-time trustee Bert de Gooijer is a great example of a locally-elected school-board member who has been instrumental in ensuring students across the province receive equitable educational opportunities, and for this, Bert recently won the SSBA Award of Distinction. The Prairie Valley Board of Education nominated Bert for this award because he is knowledgeable, dependable, levelheaded, selfless, humble, patient and a big picture thinker. His record of service to public education spans nearly a quarter century and truly demonstrates unwavering service. On behalf of our Board, I would like to congratulate Bert on his award and thank him for his dedication and commitment to the students of this province.

It is because of dedicated, hard working, locally elected officials like Bert that Warren Keading, Minister of Government Relations proclaimed November 12 to 16 Local Government Week. I along with my fellow Board members took this time to proudly celebrate the important work of our mayors, reeves, councillors, chairs and fellow trustees across the province. Locally elected officials play an important role in shaping the future of our province and the Prairie Valley Board of Education is grateful to the Minister for this proclamation.

The events of this month are a great reminder of why we do what we do in public education, and for me, it's about working to build a strong future for the young people of this province. Thank you to our staff, students, communities and you, our parents and guardians, for your support of public education.

Janet Kotylak, Board Chair