

November 20, 2018

## Bert de Gooijer Receives the SSBA Award of Distinction

Bert de Gooijer was awarded the SSBA Award of Distinction on Friday evening during the Saskatchewan School Boards Association's Fall General Assembly banquet, attended by Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Tom Molloy, provincial and local dignitaries and school board members from across the province. [The Prairie Valley School Division Board of Education was proud to nominate Trustee de Gooijer.](#)



*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.*

"Bert is knowledgeable, dependable, level-headed, 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 to public education," said Janet Kotylak, Prairie Valley Board of Education Chair. "That's why we [nominated Bert](#). 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."

Bert has served the Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 education sector for 24 years, beginning with the Kelliher Local Board (1994-1999), the Cupar Board of Education (1999-2003), the Qu'Appelle Valley Board of Education (2003-2005) and the Prairie Valley Board of Education (2005 to present). Bert was vice chair of the Prairie Valley Board of

Education from 2012 to 2018 and chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee from 2012 to 2016.

Bert says his interest in education stems from a commitment to ensuring that Saskatchewan students are provided equitable, progressive, adequately funded educational opportunities so they can grow into confident, knowledgeable, engaged citizens.

"In his 24 years in education governance, Bert has delivered on his commitment," Kotylak said. "He consistently demonstrates that he looks out for the greater good of education. His number one focus is student achievement and he advocates for an education system that will develop well rounded young adults who will leave our school division and contribute to the world. His community, school division and provincial work certainly show that Bert leads by example."

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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