



HPSD receives Minister's Education Leadership Recognition Award for the second straight year

For immediate release
April 7, 2009

HIGH PRAIRIE, AB– High Prairie School Division No. 48 is one of six school boards in northern Alberta recently acknowledged by Alberta Education for its dedication towards student achievement and providing them with the tools for a lifetime of success beyond the post-secondary level.

“School board trustees and superintendents make important decisions every day which affect students’ daily activities,” says Dave Hancock, Alberta’s Minister of Education. “It’s vital to acknowledge the importance of these leaders and their teams to our K-12 learning system and to give thanks for their positive influence on learning opportunities, student achievement, and school communities.”

MELRA (Minister’s Education Leadership Recognition Award) recipients were honoured by Alberta Education at five events held throughout the province recently, including the Zone 1 recognition ceremony on Feb. 4, 2009, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Grande Prairie, AB.

In attendance to accept the prestigious award from Janice Sarich, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education and MLA for Edmonton-Decore, was High Prairie School Division (HPSD) Board Chair Joyce Dvornek along with Superintendent of Schools and Chief Executive Officer Mrs. Laura Poloz.

“We’re extremely pleased and honoured to be recognized by the province for a second straight year as a recipient of the Minister’s Education Leadership Recognition Award,” says Poloz.

The school division’s award falls under the auspices of Alberta Education’s six-year high school to post-secondary transition rate, an area where significant improvement was once again achieved within HPSD in comparison to the annual provincial average.

“High Prairie School Division results came in at 61.6 percent, which is well above the provincial average of 60.3 percent for 2006-’07 transition rates across the province,” says Poloz. “This result is indicative of the emphasis which our division and its students place on the necessity of pursuing advanced education initiatives beyond Grade 12.”

The awards recognize the ongoing commitment and dedication of leadership teams for significant improvement and/or very high achievement in areas ranging from student achievement to the promotion of healthy living and caring school environments.

Eligibility as a MELRA recipient consists of demonstrating improvement and/or high achievement throughout the following categories.

. Safe and caring schools;

- . Student learning opportunities;
 - . Student learning achievement;
 - . Preparation for lifelong learning, world of work, and citizenship;
 - . Parental involvement;
 - . School improvement;
 - . Healthy living (e.g. physical education, health, nutrition, etc.);
 - . Fine arts (e.g. music, drama, etc.);
 - . Practical arts (e.g. Registered Apprenticeship Program, Career and Technology studies, etc.);
- and
- . Academic non-diploma exam courses (e.g. second languages, religious studies, courses leading to a diploma exam such as Applied Math 10 and 20 or Pure Math 10 and 20 etc.).

Alberta Education created the Minister's leadership awards in collaboration with the Alberta School Boards Association, the Alberta School Councils' Association, the Alberta School Business Officials Association, the College of Alberta School Superintendents, and the Alberta Teachers' Association.