

Outreach



To The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

Volume 26, Number 2 • November/December 2003
2317 Arlington Avenue, Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8

The President's Remarks

DOREEN LLOYD

Hello, again! What a wonderful fall we have had. But winter has come to Prince Albert. I arrived home from the Executive Meeting to see snow on the ground, and quite a bit of it.

Thank you, to all members and Chapters who have sent cards and letters recently. I do appreciate your support, and they all brighten my spirits. I am feeling well, and my doctors are very pleased. They have given me leave to resume my regular activities. This meant being able to attend the Grey Cup in Regina. Those who know me well know that football is a huge part of my life, and I was ecstatic when I found out that I would be allowed to do that. My life became whole again.

It was disappointing to have to cancel out of two Chapter meetings, Medicine Hat/Maple Creek and Swift Current. These were ably handled by Horst Sawatzki. I attended the Tisdale Chapter in October, and was pleased to be able

to present awards to two twenty-year members. The next day, I spoke to my own Chapter. At Prince Albert, Awards of Distinction were presented to two members. I am looking forward to visits to the Midlakes Chapter, and the Unity Chapter in December. In the new year, I will visit Yorkton. I have also received an invitation from the North West CSSD (North Battleford) to present a one-hour session on the STS at their annual teachers' convention in February. I am looking forward to the visits to Chapters and to making that presentation. That presentation will be a first for me.

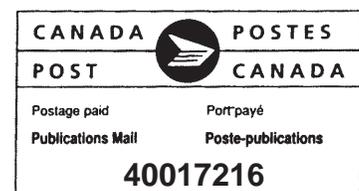
We have just completed another two-day Executive Meeting. Committees met on Wednesday the 19th, and a full Executive meeting was held on the 20th. A number of issues were debated and moved on. At our AGM in May, a resolution dealing with counsellor-like assistance to members was referred to the Executive. The Executive established an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate this.

We have received a few requests from Chapters asking for permission to change the name of their Chapter. This name change may have come from an amalgamation of school divisions or a change to better reflect the area of the Chapter. Chapters requesting this change should have a motion voted on at a Chapter meeting, and then follow with a letter to the Executive for approval.

We officially opened our new offices with a brief ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, November 20th. Horst Sawatzki and Bert Gordon held the ribbon and I cut the ribbon. Invited guests were from all the various partners that we have working with us and for us.

We served coffee and dainties following the ceremony.

The Christmas and holiday season is fast approaching. On behalf of myself, the Executive, and our office staff, I want to extend wishes to all for a happy holiday season and the best of everything for the coming year.



*Give the gift of love —
it's returnable.*

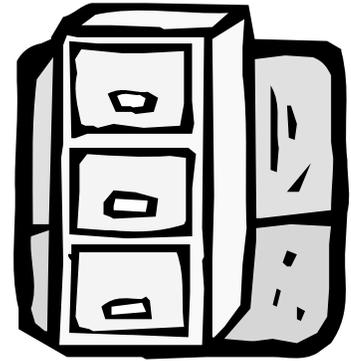
*The best device for clearing the
driveway of snow is a kid who
wants to use the car.*

*No matter how many
Christmas cards you mail, the
first one you receive is from
someone you forgot.*

Greetings from your Editor

Absolutely amazing! Where has 2003 gone? Winter, with its ice and snow, seems to have settled in. My husband Al and I wish all of you a wonderful Christmas with friends and family and a healthy and happy New Year! Take care and God bless.

Loretta A. Romankewicz
409 5th Ave. SE
Swift Current, SK S9H 3N5
Fax/ Ph. 773-5244
E-mail allorosa@sasktel.net



ATTENTION CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships must be submitted to the STS office by February 14/04.

If you have any worthy candidates for these awards, please ensure that the nominations are submitted well before the deadline. Please check pages 38-39 of the *Policy Handbook* for the correct format of the nomination.

Darlene McCullough, Chair - Honorary Life Membership Committee

Let's face it

English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, two geese. So one moose, two meese? One index, two indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend. If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

From the STS Office . .

Please note the STS Office will be closed from December 20th to January 4th inclusive. It will reopen 8:30 A.M. January 5th, 2004.

The very best of the season to one and all. May you be blessed in 2004.

**SHIRLEY
&
COLLEEN**



Outreach,

the newsletter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan, is published 5 times a year and is mailed to paid up members.

In order to control costs, one copy is sent to households where both spouses are members. If this is not satisfactory, contact the STS office in Saskatoon.

Phone: 373-3879
Fax: 374-1122
E-mail: sts@stf.sk.ca

2317 Arlington Ave. Saskatoon,
SK S7J 2H8 Monday to Friday
8:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon.

Reports

Group Benefits Committee Report

BERT GORDON

The following resolution was passed at the AGM in May 2003: "That the STS, with the STF, investigate the advantages and disadvantages of having teachers and retired teachers under one Dental Plan and one Health Plan, and report the findings, along with recommendations, to the membership in the fall edition of *Outreach*. On Wednesday, November 19, the Benefits Committee met with representatives of the STF to discuss this issue. STF representatives were General Secretary Lyle Vinish, Executive Assistants Daryl Nordick and Gary Ferguson, who are members of the Board for the teachers' plan, and Tracy Young and Shelley Wall who work in the administration of the teachers' plan.

Discussion at this first meeting was quite general. The need for good, ongoing communication was stressed by both parties. There is a need to compare the two plans, and also to compare them with individual contracts that people can purchase. At present the Plans have different Carriers and there are major differences between them. However, there may be ways that we can cooperate in the administration and operation of the plans. There is also a need to clarify the options that exist for transfer between the plans. Discussions will continue.

We then met with Randy Lewis, our Blue Cross contact. Claims Ratio figures for the first eight months of the new contract were good. Despite high claims in September, both plans show a surplus during these eight months. Membership continues to grow. At present 2468 members participate in one or both plans.

Randy also provided information on the cost of "white fillings" as compared to that for regular fillings. At the present time we will not recommend a change in the contract.

We are working on a solution to the problem with regard to dependents over the age of 21 to ensure that parents as well as our administrator can be efficiently informed and effective steps taken to ensure proper coverage and payments.

BLUELINK has arrived!

The Executive has authorized Blue Cross to include our Group Plan in their process of making information available on-line. As a Blue Cross cardholder you can now access your confidential health and dental claims history and coverage on-line at www.sk.bluecross.ca.

Registration is easy. Go to the Blue Cross site and Click on BLUELINK. Then follow the instructions for first time users. You will need to have your ID and group number handy for filling in the fields for submission. A temporary password will be emailed back to you immediately and then you can create your own password and view your confidential information. If you need help you can contact Blue Cross at groupinquiry@sk.bluecross.ca or by phone at 1-800-USE-BLUE (1-800-873-2583).

Budget and Finance Committee Report

HORST SAWATZKI

1. Financial statements and YTD statements for September 30, 2003 and October 31, 2003 be approved as presented
2. Membership Report: 6817 members as at October 15, 2003. Membership continues to grow

with 7000-8000 not being too far away.

3. Rebates to Chapters have been forwarded (to October 15, 2003) with an update final report in April 2004.
4. Recommend to Executive for consideration the proposed Contingency Fund Guidelines:

Recommendations:

- 4.1 A Contingency Fund shall be maintained at a level of at least twice the annual STS Budget.
 - 4.1.1 Monies intended for contingency shall be kept in a separate fund.
 - 4.1.2 Any monies in excess of fifty percent of the previous year's expenditures shall be allocated to the Contingency Fund.
 - 4.1.3 The Executive shall review the adequacy of the fund regularly in relation to possible uses of monies from the fund.
- 4.2.1 The Contingency Fund shall be used:
 - 4.2.1.1 to provide legal support for the organization.
 - 4.2.1.2 to provide financial means for a public information program in support of the goals of STS.
 - 4.2.1.3 to provide financial support to deal with emergent circumstances.

5. Recommend to Executive the proposed STS Expense Allowance Guidelines to be effective July 1, 2003.
 - 5.1 That the STS Auditor's Fee be negotiated on an annual basis and that he/she be paid a fee for service.
 - 5.2 That expense allowances for the *Outreach* Editor, the *Outreach* Committee chairperson, the Benefits Committee Chairperson, the Office and Staffing Committee Chairperson and the Executive Secretary be abandoned and that individuals filling these positions be authorized to submit actual expenses.

Councillors' Report

**DON BARTEL, MIKE KAMINSKI,
AND SHIRLEY DYCK**

Beautiful weather facilitated the STF Councillor Conference and Special Meeting of Council in Saskatoon on October 16 - 18. Mike Kaminski, Don Bartel, Horst Sawatzki (sub for Shirley Dyck) and STS President Doreen Lloyd were the councillors representing the STS.

On the evening of October 16, the STF provided an orientation session for new councillors. Friday morning, the councillors were greeted by President Murray Wall.

General Secretary, Lyle Vinish reviewed the background to the Governance Report and 55 Recommendations in the first session on October 17th. The report along with the recommendations were to be reviewed and discussed by each table group of six or seven councillors. Then, a final feedback question/report was to be prepared and submitted to the STF for further review. The questions responded to were: 1) What are the implications locally/provincially if these recommendations are implemented/are not implemented? 2) What are

the cautions regarding implementation of this block of recommendations? 3) What are the implications of this block of recommendations for other recommendations in this report?

General Secretary, Lyle Vinish, then reviewed the current process of Education Finance in Saskatchewan, the issues surrounding it, and the submission that the STF made to the Commission headed by Ray Boughen.

The afternoon was brought to a close with an update on Income Continuance Plan (ICP), by Ken Moore, and a review of the long-term stability goal for July 1, 2004.

The evening social and supper was an opportunity for councillors to meet some of the political candidates running for election on November 5th.

On Saturday morning, Lyle Vinish reviewed the Bargaining Process now in place in the STF. The December 6 Special Meeting of Council will be to ratify the Teacher Proposals for the Asking Package.

In the next session, Carol Moen reviewed School^{PLUS} as noted on the government's document titled - *School^{PLUS} at a Glance*. She then reviewed the STF's review of School^{PLUS} from the perspective of implementation priorities for 2003-2004. Ken Moore also reviewed the principles, goals and activities surrounding Aboriginal education within the context of School^{PLUS}. The conference concluded with a review of the Assessment for Learning as understood by the STF.

The Special Meeting of Council convened at 1pm on Saturday. Council had four Notice of Motions and ten Resolutions to deal with. Of significance, Council passed the Resolution which directed the STF executive to create and implement a plan designed for the implementation of the recommendations of the Governance Review as amended by Council. Council also passed the resolution directing the STF to pressure the government to change *The Teachers' Federation Act* to

empower local associations to levy membership fees and to oblige members to pay them. The final Resolution passed was more of a housekeeping one dealing with the new names being given to newly formed school divisions through amalgamations.

Murray Wall, on behalf of the STF, thanked the councillors for the excellent discussion and debate sessions over the course of the "Fall Council" and reminded them of the Special Meeting on December 6th.

Saskatchewan Seniors' Mechanism Report

**AL SCHELL,
SSM BOARD MEMBER**

A meeting of the SSM Board of Directors was held on October 28th. In addition to regular operational items, the agenda included a review of current SSM Bylaws and the revision /clarification of SSM guidelines for the evaluation of requests for funding of seniors' activities from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Foundation.

Perhaps the most significant item was the approval of a submission to the Federal Pre-Budget Hearing Committee to be presented on October 30th. Major recommendations of the submission which pertain specifically to seniors are as follows:

1. On tax reform:
 - a. reduce the effect of Bracket Creep by indexing tax brackets to inflation,
 - b. restore the full amount of the tax credits which seniors receive based on age and retirement rather than retaining the current 17% credit limit,
 - c. eliminate the clawback on OAS and the GIS,
 - d. OAS should be paid to all age-eligible citizens and taxed at the same rate as all other income,

- e. fully index OAS and GIS to the actual inflation rate and to the cost of living index,
 - f. increase the basic exemption or give a special tax credit for low income earners,
 - g. increase tax credits for homecare expenses to reflect the true cost of service.
2. Homecare workers are “silent victims in a silent system” (Report on Home Care commissioned by the Canadian Association of Retired Persons). These care givers are usually spouses or children. They are under-funded, over-stressed and under-valued as they strive to care for ill, frail, or dying family or friends. In 1996 there were 2.1 million informal care givers providing home care to 800,000 seniors and the current number is probably higher. We recommend increased funding to include direct compensation for the care givers, adjustments to CPP and EI to relieve the pressure on personnel who must discontinue regular jobs to care for a sick family, national training and standards for care givers, and the seamless integration of the home care system into the regular health care system.
 3. The high rate of withdrawal from RRIF’s between ages 69 and 77 is a hardship for many seniors especially when interest rates are low. We recommend that the government lower the rates of withdrawal or index them to interest rates.
 4. More support must be given to seniors who live below the poverty level. This can be done by increasing Guaranteed Income Supplement payments or increasing the basic exemption for income tax purposes. Low-income seniors spend their income on the necessities of life so increasing the GIS helps the economy as well as seniors.
 5. We urge that the Spouse’s Allowance program be amended

to remove the present discrimination based on marital status, so that never married, separated and divorced Canadians aged 60-64 be entitled to the same benefits as spouses, widows and widowers.

6. Many seniors live in sub-standard housing. Increased federal funding is needed to provide safe and healthy social housing for low-income seniors.
7. Bill C78 allows the federal government to confiscate the surplus in the Federal Civil Servants Pension Fund. This action may set a precedent for other levels of government and industry. Surpluses in pension funds belong to the retirees and should be distributed in an equitable manner.
8. Restore full funding to ALCOA (Active Living Coalition for Older Adults). Grants have allowed some good research to be done and some projects to be started. With the recent cutback in funding (about 40%), personnel cannot be trained nor programs delivered. It is certainly false economy for governments to initiate programs, then fail to provide operating funds for ongoing implementation.

The complete submission may be accessed on the STS Website (www.sts.sk.ca).

McDowell Foundation Report

The Board of the McDowell Foundation met on September 27th, 2003. The budget and reports from various committees were reviewed. Appointments were made to the Project Review Committee and the Advisory Committee. Up to \$85,000 was allocated for grants in the coming year. The call for proposals has gone out. Thank you to those Chapters who participated in the World Teachers’ Day Walkathon to raise money for the Foundation.

Retirement Lifestyle Planning Committee Report

BERT GORDON

On Saturday, November 8th, at the STF building in Saskatoon, we held a seminar for about 65 teachers, most from Saskatoon and the surrounding area. Spouses or significant others had been invited and many were in attendance. Most of the teachers in attendance were looking at retiring within one or two years. The full day seminar included the material from the STF Pre-Retirement seminars as well as our own Lifestyles material.

This was our first venture into a joint STS-STF presentation and we were very pleased with the response from those in attendance.

On Friday, November 7th, the Planning Committee met to review the program. George Georget and Daryl Nordick were the STF liaison members who met with us.

STS Provincial Recreation Update

Ed Magis 783-3350; Audry Blais 937-7115;
Calvin Bachmeier 628-3804



KAISER TOURNAMENT RESULTS

32 participants from 6 Chapters

Two Day High:

Female: Marina Sand
Male: Brian White

Wednesday Winner:

A: Stella Ewanchuk
B: Evelyn Engele

Thursday Winner:

A: Miriam Spenrath
B: Ruby Rafuse

TOUR TOUR TOUR

Greatest interest shown in Polar Bear Tour to Churchill. It's presenting some difficulties but we'll persevere and get some prices and dates (usually late Oct. - early Nov) More info in Jan/Feb *Outreach*.

REMINDERS OF 2004 ACTIVITIES:

Bowling: Moose Jaw
Curling: Prince Albert
Bridge: Saskatoon
Golf: Regina
Fishing Derby: Host Needed
Kaiser: North Battleford
Quilting: Moose Jaw
Birding: St. Walberg
June 18, 19, 20
(a new event!
Sounds great.
More info in
future issues of
Outreach.

BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

Here are the results of the Bridge Tournament held in Swift Current. There were six tables with people from Regina, Moose Jaw, Gull Lake and Swift Current.

Individual:

1st Don Wilmot (Swift Current)
2nd Spencer Wooff (Swift Current)
3rd Keith Noble (Swift Current)

Pairs:

1st Eleanor and Len Davidson
(Moose Jaw)
2nd Cornie Unger and Frank
Mudry (Swift Current)
3rd Brian Whiteside and Lawrence
Kalmakoff (Swift Current)

Team:

1st Brian Whiteside, Lawrence
Kalmakoff (Swift Current)

combined with Martin Leek
and Gurnam Singh (Gull Lake)
2nd Eleanor and Len Davidson
(Moose Jaw) combined with
Ray and Linda Hanlon (Swift
Current)

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Misplaced golf trophies have been returned. Thanks. We were in the process of pricing new ones.

Saskatchewan Health's SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Saskatchewan Drug Plan administered by Saskatchewan Health was changed on July 1, 2002 – the deductible of \$850 per six months is no longer available. As a result of these changes, coverage under the Provincial Drug Plan is no longer universal. Saskatchewan residents must now apply to the province to register for their new “deductible” through Saskatchewan Health's Special Support Program.

Why You Need To Apply

This Special Support Program is designed to help offset the out-of-pocket expenses incurred with prescription drug purchases. The Provincial Government may cover a portion of drug expenses, based

on 3.4% (approximately 1/30th) of your Adjusted Family Income. Your new “deductible” is applied directly at the point of sale, at the pharmacy counter. Not only does it decrease the amount you pay up front but, if you are a member of the Group Benefits Plan, it decreases the amount submitted through the Plan, therefore helping to keep your Health premiums from increasing.

All members can play a role in helping control costs charged to the Group Benefits Plan. Because the deductible is based on a family's adjusted income, all members with drug costs expected to exceed 1/30th of that income in the year should apply for coverage under this program.

31st Annual General Meeting of the STS

**Wednesday, May 19th – 21, 2004
Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon**

REGISTRATION:

Wednesday, May 19, 5:30 – 7:30 followed by guest speaker.

We are so pleased to announce that The Honourable Dr. Lynda Haverstock, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, will be our guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting.

INTEREST SESSIONS:

We will offer five and delegates may attend three.

The topics this year will be:

- The Canada Light Source
- Sand Dunes of Lake Athabasca – Peter Jonker
- Home Security – Bev Cook
- Bird Watching – Mary Gilliland
- The fifth session to be announced

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS:

You will be receiving a package of information early in February. Please send your list of delegates to the STS office shortly after receiving the information. The Executive have calculated that the formula for this year will be: two delegates for the first 40 paid up members; and one additional delegate for each additional 40 paid up members or portion thereof.

Plan to attend!

**Shirley Dyck, Darlene McCullough
Co-chairs of the AGM Planning Committee**

STF Entrance Scholarship

In accordance with a resolution passed by Council 2002, the Federation is offering ten (10) STF Entrance Scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each to be awarded annually to children of teachers who are current, superannuated, or deceased members of the STF. Scholarship applicants must be entering their first year at an accredited post-secondary institution.

Applications for the scholarship must be received in the Saskatoon office of the STF by 5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 26, 2004. Application forms and information may be obtained from the contact given below. Completed applications may also be directed to:

Lisa Hansen, Administration
Department, Saskatchewan
Teachers' Federation, 2317
Arlington Avenue, Saskatoon,
SK S7J 2H8. Telephone (306)
373-1660, Fax: (306) 374-1122;
E-mail: hansenl@stf.sk.ca

The Alex Youck School Museum

Located in the J. A. Burnett Education Centre 1600 Fourth Avenue, Regina, SK. The Alex Youck School Museum is a delightful replica of a one-room school house and a showroom of teaching artifacts and archival documents dating to the 1800s. It offers hands-on experience for children and adults and an opportunity to re-live Saskatchewan's rich educational heritage. The museum's Director, Alex Youck, is its founder and a retired teacher. It is operated by a volunteer committee of retired teachers and sponsored by the Regina Public School Board. To arrange a guided tour, call 791-8227 (schools); or 352-6800 (adults).



In Memoriam

(If known, the last area taught and the maiden names of deceased women are included)

SUPERANNUATE

Alton, Grace (Freeman)
 Barilla, Helen
 Berg, Elinora (Epp)
 Calder, John
 Casey, Agnes
 Chadwick, Janet (Cameron)
 Drotar, Melvin
 Eldstrom, Eileen (Frizell)
 Forsyth, Verla
 Gillespie, Edgar
 Gilongos, Ruth (Puzon)
 Girvan, Margaret (Rae)
 Gordon, June (Sundberg)
 Hammel, Sr. Rosa
 Harrington, Nola
 Heinrichs, Henry
 Hitchcock, Erna (Christensen)
 Janzen, Larry
 Johnson, Joyce
 Jordan, Helen (Wishart)
 Klassen, Anna
 Krug, Irvin
 Leibel, Eva
 Leibel, Harold
 L'Heureux, Marie (Dion)
 Mack, Margaret (Robertson)
 Matthews, Esther (Svingen)
 McLaren, Jean
 Molder, Pauline
 Nicholson, Yvonne (Gilmore)
 Niosalke, Achim
 O'Connor, Florence
 Pederson, Ellsworth
 Pederson, Gladys (Welte)
 Perley, Caroline
 Peterson, Clara (Myers)
 Petterson, Marilyn (Anderson)
 Poole, Cecilia (Zens)
 Possberg, Leonard
 Reed, William
 Robinson, Irene (Sutor)
 Rogerson, Dorothy (Milburn)
 Ruf, June (Blackburn)
 Schick, Alfred
 Sieben, Margaret (Gehl)
 Smith, Edith (Cornes)
 Spier, May
 Stroshein, Gladys (Van Os)
 Swartz, Alice (Blanke)
 Thomas, Cyril
 Thorn, Eldon
 VanZydveld, Marie (Zintel)
 Waskowic, Valentyn
 Wdowach, Mary
 Whitehead, Amelia (Alcorn)
 Zalinko, Russell
 Zaluski, Sharon (Kacsmar)

DECEASED

Sept 22/03
 Sept 4/03
 Aug 17/03
 May 03/03
 Dec 03/02
 Jun 19/03
 Feb 01/03
 Jun 17/03
 Jun 26/03
 Jul 15/03
 Feb 13/03
 Apr 21/96
 Jun 21/03
 Jun 18/03
 Apr 16/03
 Jun 06/03
 May 04/03
 Apr 05/03
 Jun 25/03
 Mar 31/03
 Jun 19/03
 Aug 06/03
 Jul 29/03
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 May 28/03
 Jul 10/03
 Jul 24/03
 May 18/03
 Jul 05/03
 Aug 14/03
 Jul 17/03
 Dec 22/02
 May 05/03
 Jun 04/03
 May 20/03
 Dec 28/02
 Aug 15/03
 Mar 09/02
 Jul 01/03
 Aug 10/03
 Apr 17/03
 Mar 07/03
 Jun 11/03
 May 25/03
 Jun 12/03
 Aug 13/03

LAST TAUGHT

Northern Lakes SD
 Regina Public SD
 Humboldt RCSSD
 Maple Creek
 Potashville SD
 Assiniboia SD
 Saskatoon SD
 Saskatoon SD
 Herbert SD
 NA
 Arcola SD
 St. Angela's Academy
 Regina Public SD
 Hudson Bay SD #52
 Saskatoon SD #13
 Prince Albert SD
 Saskatoon SD
 Lemberg SD
 Cupar SD
 Regina SD
 Assiniboia SD
 Saskatoon SD
 Herbert SD
 Gull Lake
 Saskatoon SD #13
 Creighton SD
 Meadow Lake SD
 Regina Public SD
 Lutheran Collegiate
 Wadena SD
 Regina Public SD
 Melfort SD
 Humboldt SD
 Lanigan SD
 Prince Albert SD
 Saskatoon SD
 Parkland SD
 Swift Current Rural
 Melville Comp
 Estevan RCSSD #27
 Melville SD
 Regina RCSSD
 Gull Lake SD
 Melville School Division
 Battle River SD
 Wolseley Consolidated
 Humboldt RCSSD
 Hudson Bay SD #52
 Wadena SD
 Weyburn SD
 Regina SD
 Moose Jaw RCSSD