

# Empowering Teachers Through Research

DR. STIRLING MCDOWELL FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH INTO TEACHING



2016-18 STRATEGIC PLAN





# Who We Are

The Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation for Research Into Teaching is an independent registered charitable organization established by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation in 1991. We are named in honour of Dr. Stirling McDowell whose visionary work, internationally recognized research and ability to inspire co-operation and creativity in education was only exceeded by his unwavering pride and passion for student learning and the teaching profession.

The McDowell Foundation funds, supports and promotes professionally led educational research, inquiry and sharing of information that focuses on teaching and learning within the publicly funded PreK-12 education system. Our projects and activities are student-centred and relevant to successful instruction in today's classrooms. Teachers are doing research every single day; we are able to formalize that process with the ongoing support and engagement of the Federation and its more than 13,000 members.

With over 272 teacher-led research projects funded and a total of over \$1.68 million in grants awarded, the results of our endeavours have had significant influence on students, teachers and communities all across Saskatchewan. We continue to be honoured every year to support passionate and engaged teachers in exploring innovative ways to best meet the educational needs of students.



# What We Do

## Our Mission

---

Enriching teaching and learning by supporting professionally led research.

## Our Mandate

---

To support research, inquiry and sharing of information that focuses on teaching and learning within the publicly funded PreK-12 education system in Saskatchewan. We strive to:

- Contribute to knowledge about teaching and learning to support and enhance student success.
- Encourage educational inquiry through a range of methodologies.
- Support the involvement of practising teachers in research projects.
- Encourage and support individuals as well as organizations to determine and pursue areas of research and inquiry.
- Encourage experimentation with innovative ideas and techniques related to teaching and learning.
- Ensure resources are available to continue to support research, inquiry and dissemination.

# Our Values

## Collaboration

---

We are committed to reciprocal relationships developed through consultation to build strong teaching and learning communities. We seek opportunities for effective partnerships with educators, organizations and businesses. We are responsive to the needs of our profession and our communities and engage in initiatives with openness and a balanced approach.

## Creativity

---

We bring creativity, a passion for knowledge and a forward-looking approach to classroom-based learning research. We try new strategies and learn from them. We lead by example. We consider the future.

## Integrity

---

We are committed to responsible, transparent, ethical and professional conduct. We acknowledge the contributions of others. We are committed to defining and accepting responsibility and delivering on our promises.

## Respect

---

We practice equity, fairness and inclusivity. We show consideration and appreciation for those with whom we work.

## Sharing

---

We engage in and facilitate knowledge exchange by sharing insights into teaching and learning, and providing opportunities for presentations, discussion and further research.



# Our Commitments

As a professionally led organization focused on quality research in education, these three commitments inform everything the McDowell Foundation does. As we focus on the strategic priorities outlined in this plan, these commitments will serve as a lens through which we view all operational planning and decision-making.

## Social Justice, Inclusion and Equity

---

### A commitment to:

- Recognize and celebrate diversity within education and educational research.
- Provide programs, supports and resources that are inclusive and accessible to all.
- Respect and honour our treaty relationships and responsibilities.
- Recognize, support and celebrate movement towards a just society.

## Professional Responsibility

---

### A commitment to:

- Demonstrate high standards of care, conduct and competence to ensure the well-being and growth of all children and youth.
- Exercise leadership and provide opportunities for professional autonomy and agency through our programs and services.
- Adapt and evolve through reflection, lifelong learning and collegiality, and provide opportunities for other teachers and educators to do the same.

## Responsible Stewardship

---

### A commitment to:

- Sound fiduciary management of the assets of the Foundation.
- Sound stewardship of the unique legacy and history of the Foundation.
- Integrity and transparency in our project review processes.

# Our Strategic Priorities

## Research Program

---

Through the McDowell Foundation's research program, we support passionate and engaged teachers and other educators in exploring new and innovative ways to best meet the educational needs of students in Saskatchewan.

### Goals

- To provide opportunities and supports for teachers and other educators to contribute to knowledge in teaching and learning through sound research.
- To ensure opportunities to pursue support for research into teaching and learning are accessible to all.
- To seek partnerships with other organizations within the education sector to advance education research.

### Indicators of Success

- Consistently meeting the disbursement quota for the McDowell Foundation required by the Canada Revenue Agency.
- Increased number of yearly research applications.
- Increased diversity in research applications and in projects awarded funding.
- Increased opportunities for research dissemination within the province and beyond.
- Strengthened relationships with universities and other educational partners within the sector.



Photo Credit: Michela Carriere

## Public Relations

---

The McDowell Foundation is unique in Canada in providing resources for professionally led research into teaching and learning that are adjudicated solely through an arms-length panel of educational professionals. Building relationships within the profession, the sector and the public will highlight the important and innovative work occurring to support and enhance student learning.

### Goals

- Build understanding of the Foundation with teachers, partner organizations and the education sector.
- Partner with other organizations within the sector to increase both awareness and the capacity of the Foundation.
- Explore strategic opportunities to increase public awareness of the Foundation.

### Indicators of Success

- Increased knowledge of the opportunities provided by the Foundation among teachers and other educators in the province.
- Increased knowledge of the work of the Foundation within the provincial education sector.
- Increased public awareness and support for professionally led education research.

## Fiscal Sustainability

---

The work of the McDowell Foundation is made possible through the endowment fund and through ongoing donations from teachers, teacher associations, corporations and the public. The viability and sustainability of the Foundation depends on vibrant and ongoing fundraising.

### Goals

- Continually monitor the ongoing financial viability of the Foundation.
- Engage in a fundraising campaign within the education sector to increase the endowment.
- Seek out corporate and other public donations through a targeted fundraising campaign.

### Indicators of Success

- Increased range of fundraising initiatives.
- Increased donations from individuals who support the mandate of the Foundation.
- Increased corporate, institutional and group donations.
- Overall growth in the endowment fund.

## Governance

The McDowell Foundation is governed by teachers through a Board of Directors who are passionate about research that directly impacts teaching and learning. The Foundation is accountable to its sole member, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. This collaborative professional partnership ensures that the Foundation remains professionally led and intricately connected to education in the province.

### Goals

- Clarify roles and responsibilities in governance at the Board, STF Executive as the sole member, and staff levels.
- Engage in a full review of Foundation policy and procedures.
- Engage in ongoing strategic planning, risk analysis and collaborative renewal to ensure organizational sustainability.

### Indicators of Success

- Strong Board leadership.
- Renewed policy framework.
- Ongoing strategic planning, monitoring and renewal.







---

McDowell Foundation  
2317 Arlington Avenue  
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8

T: 306-373-1660 or 1-800-667-7762  
F: 306-374-1122

[mcdowell@stf.sk.ca](mailto:mcdowell@stf.sk.ca)

---

