

## Board of Directors Update



This past year, the McDowell Foundation Board of Directors approved a three-year strategic plan entitled *Empowering Teachers Through Research*, 2016-18. The four strategic priorities areas outlined in the plan include the research program, public relations, fiscal sustainability and governance.

The 2016-17 McDowell Foundation Board of Directors is comprised of President Sheena Koops, Vice-President Sean Lockwood, Darren Bird, Elaine Broughton, Belinda Daniels, Carlo Hansen, Hillary Hinds, Jade Bloor, Diana Jemieff and Martin Berg.

## 25th Anniversary Celebrations

The 2016-17 school year will be an exciting one for the McDowell Foundation as we celebrate 25 years of professionally led research supporting teaching and learning in the province. The Foundation was founded in October of 1991 by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and has funded over 270 projects with a total of over \$1.68 million in grants awarded over the years.

There will be a number of events marking this milestone year including our Legacy for Learning fundraising campaign and the Learning From Practice conference with a gala anniversary celebration in February 2017.

## Learning From Practice

The Learning From Practice conference is the McDowell Foundation's annual exchange of teacher knowledge and research. The conference ensures Foundation-funded researchers have the opportunity to share their project experiences and outcomes with their colleagues across the province. This year's conference will be held February 3, 2017, and features Charlene Bearhead, education lead from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, as the keynote speaker.

In addition, research teams will present on their work in a number of areas including physical literacy, mentorship, visual literacy, early years literacy, parental engagement in the primary years, treaty education and more. Additional information about Learning From Practice including how to register will be available at [www.mcdowellfoundation.ca](http://www.mcdowellfoundation.ca).

## 2016-17 Funded Projects

Following an open call for applications in spring 2016, the McDowell Foundation Board of Directors approved six research projects for over \$80,000 in funding. This year's projects reflect the diversity of education in Saskatchewan both in geographic location and range of topics to be explored.

Projects funded this year include study in the areas of reconciliation and treaty education, the impact of teacher-led professional development, including Indigenous knowledge and teachings in high school curriculum, exploring the impact of classroom-based action research projects focusing on social justice, using flexible teaching delivery methods to improve high school credit attainment rates and including Elder teachings in middle years Cree classrooms.

McDowell Foundation grants are awarded on an annual basis. Saskatchewan teachers and other educators are invited to submit a Notice of Intent in November each year to begin the application process for research projects to be funded in the next school year. Please see the McDowell Foundation website at [www.mcdowellfoundation.ca](http://www.mcdowellfoundation.ca) or contact [mcdowell@stf.sk.ca](mailto:mcdowell@stf.sk.ca) for more information.

### 2016-17 McDowell Foundation Research Project Grant Recipients

- High School Teachers Working Towards Reconciliation: Examining the Teaching and Learning of Residential Schools  
– Dr. Tana Mitchell and Dr. Jennifer Tupper
- Teachers Leading Teachers: The Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit's Facilitator Community  
– Dr. Pamela Osmond-Johnson
- The Muskrat/Wuchusk Project: The Practices  
– Renee Carriere and Bonnie Werner
- Catholic Schools Teachers Enacting Papal Encyclical *Laudato si'* (Praise Be To You – On Care For Our Common Home)  
– Mel Sysing, Dustin Kasun, Dr. Richard Manning and Dr. Brad Harasymchuk
- Time, Pace, Place: Using Flexible Design and Delivery to Support Learners  
– Ramona Stillar, Frazer Donahue, Cheryl Dunits, Joseph Jean, Shalen Fox and Carlos Hanson
- The Journey to Reclamation Through Oral Tradition  
– Diane Peekeekoot, Charlotte Campbell, Shaun Sasakamoose, Loretta Ballantyne and Irene Dumais

## Website Revisions and Twitter Launch



The McDowell Foundation recently launched a new website to ensure teachers and others in the education sector have easy access to information on its research grant application process and on currently funded and recently completed research projects.

An essential part of our mandate is to promote this important research taking place right here in Saskatchewan. This website is simply another step in getting the word out about the amazing work researchers are doing in schools and the opportunities the Foundation can provide teachers and other educators to explore their own research questions.

Donations to support the work of the McDowell Foundation can now be made online and visitors to the new website, [www.mcdowellfoundation.ca](http://www.mcdowellfoundation.ca), will find an expanded News and Events section for additional information.

The Foundation also has a Twitter account. Find out more about our ongoing work by following @STFmcdowell on Twitter.





## Legacy for Learning Campaign

The McDowell Foundation's Legacy for Learning Campaign is focused on increasing our endowment fund during the 25th anniversary year. Through the generous financial and in-kind support of individuals, businesses and organizations, the Foundation is funded 100 percent through charitable donations.

Contributions large and small ensure that we can support and promote research focused on teaching and learning in the province and continue to contribute to the educational success experienced by Saskatchewan students. Please consider making a donation to the Legacy for Learning Campaign.

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