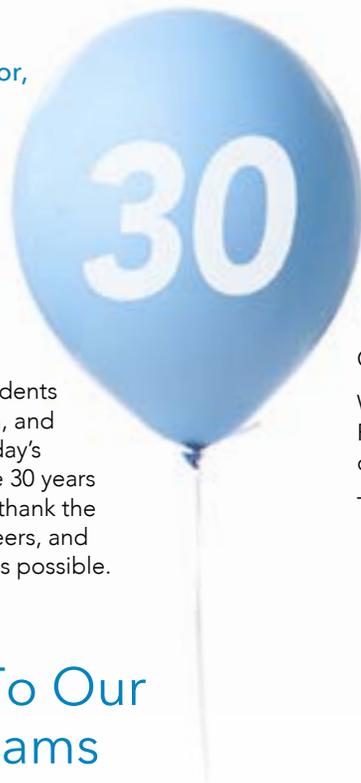


## Celebrating 30 Years of Research!

Colleen Ostoforoff,  
Fundraising Administrator,  
McDowell Foundation

For 30 years the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation has empowered thousands of Saskatchewan teachers to explore their passions, innovations, and creativity in support of students. The Foundation's projects and activities are focused on students and the teaching profession, and relevant to instruction in today's classrooms. As we celebrate 30 years of teacher-led research, we thank the researchers, donors, volunteers, and partners who have made this possible.



## Thank You To Our Research Teams

Adam Grieve, STF, Research and Policy Analyst

The McDowell Foundation thanks this year's research teams for their hard work carrying out teacher-led research in the province. For over 30 years, the Foundation has had the honour of supporting teachers' passion, creativity, and autonomy as they seek ways of refining and improving their professional practice. The McDowell Foundation and the STF believe that teacher voice has been and continues to be instrumental in guiding education in Saskatchewan and beyond. Research grants enable teachers to illuminate their ideas and aspirations and celebrate the realization of local solutions in local contexts. The McDowell Foundation offers its sincere thanks to all its current and past researchers for their contributions and commitment to professional practice and is excited for what the future holds.

## McDowell Board of Directors Approves Funding for Special Directed Call

Rosemarie Palidwor, Administrative Assistant,  
McDowell Foundation

The McDowell Foundation invited PreK-12 teachers and other educators to submit an application to a Special Directed Call for research that focuses on student and/or teacher well-being in the [post] COVID-19 public education system in Saskatchewan.

We are pleased to announce that the McDowell Foundation will fund three research projects for a total of \$11,595.

The funded projects for the Directed Call are:

- *Pandemic "Thrivers:" Investigating the Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes of Thriving Teachers During the Covid-19 Pandemic of 2020-22*  
– Ivy Armstrong and Dr. Judy Jaunzems-Fernuk
- *Understanding the Perspectives of Teachers Who Engage Regularly in Physical Activity and Subsequent Implications on Teacher Well-Being*  
– Seleste Eftoda
- *Reorienting Post-Pandemic Through Social Emotional Learning*  
– Veronica Stewart

We look forward to sharing information from these projects with Saskatchewan teachers as it becomes available throughout the year.

McDowell Foundation grants support publicly funded educators, staff in public institutions of higher education, and other professionals or organizations involved in PreK-12 education. For more information about this or any of our Foundation initiatives, please visit [www.mcdowellfoundation.ca](http://www.mcdowellfoundation.ca) or email [mcdowell@stf.sk.ca](mailto:mcdowell@stf.sk.ca).

# Let Me Introduce You to The McDowell Foundation's Board of Directors

Colleen Ostoforoff

Over the past month, I have had the pleasure to chat with our Board of Directors to learn why each of them selflessly volunteers their time and dedication to help the McDowell Foundation flourish. Their support and guidance offered to the Foundation helps steward our community engagement through growth strategy and partnership building platforms. Over the next several months we will spotlight our Board member profiles through our website, newsletter, and Facebook page. Thank you to our Board for taking time out of their very busy schedules to share about themselves.



## Diana Jemieff Hayes

President; Vice-Principal, Venture Heights Elementary School, Martensville

### How did you get involved as one of the Board of Directors for McDowell Foundation?

I was a former researcher, and once I finished my project, I wanted to remain connected to the McDowell Foundation. Shortly after I sought a role on the Board of Directors.

**What makes you excited about the Foundation?** I really believe in the Foundation's mandate: research, and highlighting teaching and learning in the province. We are a strong voice for Saskatchewan teachers.

**What would you like teachers to know about the Foundation?** If teachers have innovative ideas or areas of passion they want to investigate further they should consider applying for a research grant.



## Sean Lockwood

Vice-President; Principal, Blaine Lake Composite School, Blaine Lake

### How did you get involved as one of the Board of Directors for McDowell Foundation?

I saw an ad to sit on the Board of Directors for the Foundation. As I worked in Indigenous schools and in overseas communities, I saw it as another way to provide diverse public schools keep reputable teachers in the province. In order to make education better, we need to provide research for professional development for our teachers.

**What makes you excited about the Foundation?** It is so exciting to see teachers and students in projects of research that is developed from a regular day. Knowing that any teacher could just utilize any of our research makes me say, "Wow! I could try it that way too!" Different ways of approaching teaching is so enticing. The McDowell Board is the ONLY board that directly impacts students not just teachers as with other committees.

**What would you like teachers to know about the Foundation?** I would want teachers to know how much research we have in our archives, what has been investigated and know that anyone can use it to improve their classrooms and schools. It is better for kids, teachers, school division systems, etc., to know and understand how research direction is heading.



## Jane Isinger

Director; Representative, Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon

### How did you get involved as one of the Board of Directors for McDowell Foundation?

I am on the Provincial Executive of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan (STS). They have a representative on the McDowell Foundation Board and that position became available. I volunteered and I am currently in my second three-year term.

**What makes you excited about the Foundation?** It is exciting to see how passionate the teachers are about their research projects and the impact that their findings have had on their classroom practices. Without the McDowell Foundation's support this classroom-based research would not be happening.

**What would you like teachers to know about the Foundation?** I would like teachers and administrators to know that the McDowell Foundation provides financial, technical, and in-person supports for individual and group projects.

## Jim Traves

Director – Public Representative; CPA, CMA Associate, DCG Philanthropic Services Inc., Saskatoon

**How did you get involved as one of the Board of Directors for McDowell Foundation?** Several years ago, DCG did a Legacy Giving project with the McDowell Foundation. Ellen (Whiteman, Manager, McDowell Foundation) invited me to join our Board after that project.

**What makes you excited about the Foundation?** I am excited that there is potential in our classrooms for research in real time and real situations. The research is usable now and is easy to translate to other classrooms.

**What would you like teachers to know about the Foundation?** Teachers must look at the benefit and unique opportunity we have in Canada and what a treasure the McDowell Foundation is for teachers here in Saskatchewan. We take it for granted that the McDowell Foundation exists in other Canadian educational systems, but it does not. The Foundation is unique and genuinely wants to support our provincial teachers.



### John Schultz

Director; Senior Administrative Staff,  
Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation

#### How did you get involved as one of the Board of Directors for McDowell Foundation?

Very early in my career, my first principal asked our staff if we wanted to give in some way to the McDowell Foundation. Since then, I have been involved with McDowell supporting and being very interested in the Foundation. The Board position opened up and I was asked to consider being a director.

#### What makes you excited about the Foundation?

I am excited about the McDowell Foundation and its continual opportunity to have professional development for teachers. It is a great opportunity for research for its members. That professional growth allows teachers to be more successful. Without good-quality research by its members, we can't grow as teachers.

#### What would you like teachers to know about the Foundation?

All teachers need to know about the McDowell Foundation. It is a powerful mechanism to do practical research to support teachers in Saskatchewan and have accessible support for all in the province. It isn't difficult to get involved.



### Mary MacColl

Director; Vice-Principal, Charlebois  
Community School, Cumberland House

#### How did you get involved as one of the Board of Directors for McDowell Foundation?

I have a strong relationship with Renée Carrière a local teacher here in Cumberland House at the Charlebois Community School. I know Renée from her Muskrat research project and how she teaches and thinks differently. Renée was stepping down from the McDowell Foundation's Board and suggested that I investigate into the role further.

**What makes you excited about the Foundation?** I am very excited that many northern schools and teachers get a chance to share all the wonderful teachings they are doing in the Northern Lights School Division. For example, localized curriculum comes to life like in Renée's work through firefighting programs called Iskotew.

#### What would you like teachers to know about the Foundation?

It is so important that when you get an education to come home to help others. As my mother always said, it isn't about 'you' it is about the betterment of your community, so you need to share what you have learned and give back to the community.



### Ramona Stillar

Director; Teacher, Light of Christ  
RCSSD #16, North Battleford

#### How did you get involved as one of the Board of Directors for McDowell Foundation?

I became a lead researcher for a McDowell project. When a vacancy came available on the Board, I was asked if I would consider letting my name stand for nomination. I wanted to help any way possible.

**What makes you excited about the Foundation?** I love that we support teachers working with kids at all levels throughout Saskatchewan. The Foundation encourages risk taking. Teachers know they are supported even when the research doesn't turn out as expected.

#### What would you like teachers to know about the Foundation?

I would like teachers to know that the Foundation is excited about what you find exciting. We have the means for you to explore a passion area. As a Foundation we can help you with the outcomes regardless of the good, the bad or the ugly.

### Alexander Tawpimis

Director; Acting Principal Grade 6 & 7 Teacher, Muskeg Lake  
Cree Nation

#### How did you get involved as one of the Board of Directors for McDowell Foundation?

Shelly Tootosis, formerly an Associate Executive Director of STF, was working at an in-service with Saskatoon Tribal Council about trauma-informed education. I was very vocal about the importance of trauma-informed/healing-centered teaching during that day. Through that meeting she asked me if I would be interested in joining the Board. As a First Nations person working on reserve, I was able to bring a perspective to the board table which could help to inform decisions.

**What makes you excited about the Foundation?** I am excited that the Foundation is on the forefront for teachers and administration of what is happening in rural and reserve areas of the province, how learning through COVID is helping or not helping. I am very excited we are going in the right direction for our grants.

#### What would you like teachers to know about the Foundation?

I would love teachers to know that you can be up to date as a teacher through research by other teachers/educators. Our research projects are teacher-led, free, accessible, and are in real-time and everyone can access it. There is help out there!



### Callie Lewry

Director; Teacher, Judge Bryant Elementary  
School, Regina

#### How did you get involved as one of the Board of Directors for McDowell Foundation?

Originally, I learnt about the Foundation by applying for a research grant. After I finished my research project, I was asked by Ellen Whiteman, Manager of the McDowell Foundation, if I would be interested in volunteering on the Board. Now, I am in my second term.

#### What makes you excited about the Foundation?

I am excited about the great professional development opportunities for teachers. If we as teachers need change, then the change needs to come from the teachers. The Foundation gives teachers support financially and to give time to try to figure things out.

#### What would you like teachers to know about the Foundation?

Teachers need to know more about the Foundation, what it is, what the Foundation does and how to use the Foundation's services. It is a great way to investigate professional development.

# Research Examining Indigenous Teaching Strategies Through Oral Story Sharing

Colleen Ostoforoff

In 1991, the Foundation was established by visionary educational leaders who knew that research to support today's classrooms could not only come from universities or the streets of major American cities but had to come from the teachers in the province who are connected to students, families, and the community. Their vision 30 years ago was to establish an independent foundation that would support the passion, creativity, and professional autonomy of teachers as they worked diligently to support students.

Thirty years later, the McDowell Foundation's strategic priorities continue to emphasize the importance of social justice, inclusion, and equity. We have a commitment to recognize and celebrate diversity within education and educational research, provide programs, supports, and resources that are inclusive and accessible to all; to respect and honour our treaty relationships and responsibilities and to recognize, support, and celebrate movement towards a just society.

Last fall, as a part of our 30th Anniversary, the McDowell Foundation funded research work of Denise Heppner and Tirezah Reilkoff's project on teaching science and reading through an oral language focus through a narrative structure with a basis of reading and writing.

Heppner examined how important the funding was as it allowed her to investigate new research ideas. Denise said:

"It was more than just moving outside but rather a teaching philosophy that includes connection to and respect for the land, encouraging creativity and wonder in kids through drawing writing and storytelling and using the land as a resource to deliver curriculum. This allowed my research partner and I to engage in a way to magnify teaching science and teaching reading."



Research shows that children are healthier, happier, and more attentive when outdoors. Teachers are building knowledge and vocabulary that meets the needs of Indigenous students by using the Indigenous teaching strategies of oral story sharing and land-based learning thanks to the support from donors like you.

Through your donations, we provide teachers, our researchers, tools to develop successful, meaningful, and achievable research projects based on reflective practice and learning for all students. Thanks to our passionate donors, the McDowell Foundation can continue to support valuable research projects such as the research work of Denise Heppner and Tirezah Reilkoff. Your donations help to support teachers to examine and create new action-based research ideas through the McDowell Foundation's research projects. Please consider donating today to the McDowell Foundation's at [www.mcdowellfoundation.ca/donations](http://www.mcdowellfoundation.ca/donations)

Gratefully yours!

To donate to the McDowell Foundation, go to:

[www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/dr-stirling-mcdowell-foundation-for-research-into-teaching-i/](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/dr-stirling-mcdowell-foundation-for-research-into-teaching-i/) for online donations, or [www.mcdowellfoundation.ca/donations](http://www.mcdowellfoundation.ca/donations) for other ways to help.

McDowell Foundation **NEWS**

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