



Creating Futures

South Slave Divisional Education Council • PO Box 510 • Fort Smith, NT • X0E 0P0 • Ph: (867) 872-5701 • Fax: (867) 872-2150

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2011

South Slave Schools Superintendent Named “Canadian Superintendent of the Year”

Dr. Curtis Brown awarded by Canadian superintendents’ association

Fort Smith, NT – The South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC) is pleased to announce that its Superintendent Dr. Curtis Brown was named Canadian Superintendent of the Year 2011 by the Canadian Association of School Administrators (CASA). At an awards ceremony held recently in Niagara Falls, Ontario a handful of school board superintendents from across Canada were recognized for their leadership and innovation within their respective provinces, and from this group Dr. Brown was honored with the National award.

Dr. Brown was recognized for his inspiring leadership and dedication to the students and families of the South Slave schools in Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, Kátl’odehche and Lutsel K’e. Ann Pischinger, SSDEC Chairperson is proud of Dr. Brown and feels he is deserving of this significant award, “Curtis has been the driving force behind the success of our Leadership for Literacy initiative and has advocated strongly for our award winning alternative programs.”

- Through the Leadership for Literacy initiative, all schools have the services of a highly trained Instructional/Literacy Coach and they, working with other members of the region and school leadership teams, have provided training to teachers and administrators in the most proven and effective planning, teaching, assessment and intervention strategies. The investment in staff training and the focus on results has led to significant and sustained improvements in the achievement of South Slave students as measured by standardized tests. In the past four years of the initiative more than 150 students have moved from below average in reading achievement to the Canadian average or better for their grade level. Even more South Slave students have seen their reading achievement results improve significantly in comparison to their Canadian peers (42% of South Slave students improved their percentile ranking in 2010-11 alone – greater than a year’s growth in reading achievement that year). Some of the South Slave school results now surpass Canadian averages in each grade level. South Slave student writing and math results have also improved over the past several years.
- Dr. Brown’s initiative and strong advocacy for alternative programming was also cited at the awards ceremony. He has worked diligently over the years to promote and support the creation of alternative programs for students. The award winning Trades Awareness Program (TAP) is an example of a partnership initiative that has benefitted South Slave students from the outlying communities immensely. The most recent and celebrated of the alternative programs, the PWK Phoenix School (Fort Smith) and the DJSS Storefront School (Hay River) are offered off-site and provide flexible entry times. The graduation numbers in the region have increased dramatically, in part, because of these kinds of programs.

It is clear that Dr. Brown has ushered in a new era of education in the South Slave – an era characterized by a culture of excellence in teaching and a commitment to the learning needs of each and every student in the region. Assistant Superintendent Brent Kaulback adds, “Initiatives like these have helped to make education in the South Slave region one of the most exciting and innovative in Canada. Dr Brown and the staff of South Slave schools have lived up to the region’s motto – Creating Futures - and the futures of South Slave students look brighter than ever before.”

Dr. Brown responds, “I felt honoured to be nominated for this award by my northern colleagues. To be selected as the national award winner is particularly humbling.” Brown recognizes the excellent work of South Slave staff and partners in education, “No one would be considering me for a leadership award of this magnitude if the organizations I worked with were not also being recognized for accomplishing great things. This award really is a credit to the quality, commitment and teamwork of the elected members, education partners, and staff of the South Slave region and schools.”

See attached CASA News Release and photo

For more information contact Metro Huculak, Chairperson, NWT Superintendent’s Association, (867) 766-5050, or Brent Kaulback, Assistant Superintendent, South Slave Divisional Education Council, (867) 872-5701 or bkaulback@ssdec.nt.ca



CASA/ACAS

*Canadian Association of School Administrators
Association canadienne des administrateurs et des administratrices scolaires*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

Ed Wittchen, Professional Development/Communications Director
Canadian Association of School Administrators
ed.wittchen@telus.net
(780) 222-4022

Historic Double Win for 2011 Canadian Superintendent of the Year

Niagara Falls, Ontario, July 10, 2011 — For the first time in the organization's history, the Canadian Association of School Administrators (CASA) has awarded its prestigious EXL Award to two superintendents. Curtis Brown and Linda Fabi were announced as the 2011 Canadian Superintendents of the Year at this year's CASA Annual Conference in Niagara Falls on July 7. Xerox Canada has sponsored the award since 2002.

Five superintendents from across the country were nominated for the EXL Award:

- Maria Esposito, Superintendent of Education, Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board (Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association)
- Barbara Gammon, Associate Superintendent of Learning Services, Palliser Regional Schools (College of Alberta School Superintendents)
- Antonio Lacroce, former Director General of the English Montreal School Board and currently with the Quebec Ministry of Education (Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec)
- Curtis Brown, Superintendent, South Slave Divisional Education Council (Northwest Territories Superintendents' Association)
- Linda Fabi, Director of Education, Waterloo District School Board (Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association)

Dr. Curtis Brown has provided innovative educational leadership in both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for more than 23 years. He facilitated collaborative initiatives that received the 2006 Premier's Award for Excellence, the 2009 Premier's Award for Collaboration, and the 2009 Excellence in Education Award.

He has been instrumental in changing the culture of teaching and learning in the South Slave region of the Northwest Territories. Of note especially is his work with the region's signature initiative Leadership for Literacy. This program was adopted by the Education Minister as a territorial pilot and is now serving as a model for other regions.



CASA/ACAS

*Canadian Association of School Administrators
Association canadienne des administrateurs et des administratrices scolaires*

2011 Canadian Superintendent of the Year (page 2)

Throughout his career, Dr. Brown has been a strong advocate for alternative programming and expanded opportunities for students. He also plays and coaches hockey. He and his wife, an award-winning teacher herself, have two young children.

Linda Fabi, in addition to serving as her district's Director of Education, has also been the district's Executive Superintendent of Education and Superintendent of Instruction. Ms. Fabi is the recipient of the Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association's President's Award and has served as OPSOA's President.

She is described by colleagues as an outstanding leader and is recognized for her ability to build effective relationships with others. Her accomplishments include successfully implementing the reorganization of the Waterloo Regional District School Board administration team to focus on instructional leadership and establishing a Safe and Secure Schools Steering Committee.

Ms. Fabi has also served on the board of directors and as an advisor for Strong Start (a community-based early learning initiative), on the board of directors and as Committee Chairperson and Education Advisor for the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and on the board of directors for Kitchener's The Museum.

About the EXL Award

Every year, each CASA affiliate selects a superintendent or director as their Superintendent of the Year. CASA members who have shown exemplary leadership ability and who have enhanced school administration are eligible for this award. Nominees should have brought honour to themselves, their colleagues, and their profession; given exemplary service to their provincial or national professional association; and made significant contributions to the field of education through their service, writings, or other activities, therefore serving as role models and teachers to others. They must also have had five years of membership in CASA.

From this list of affiliate nominees, a Canadian Superintendent of the Year is chosen. The award includes an honorary lifetime membership in CASA. The Canadian Superintendent of the Year is also recognized at the annual American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Conference, where the American Superintendent of the Year is selected. The 2012 AASA Conference will take place in Houston, Texas.

For additional information or photos, contact Ed Wittchen at ed.wittchen@telus.net or (780) 222-4022. Additional information is on the CASA website at www.casa-acas.ca.



CASA/ACAS

*Canadian Association of School Administrators
Association canadienne des administrateurs et des administratrices scolaires*

2011 Canadian Superintendent of the Year (page 3)



Randy Brydges- Xerox Canada, Co-winners Curtis Brown and Linda Fabi, Louis Gagnon Xerox Canada

About CASA

CASA is the voice for senior education leaders in Canada to influence the direction of national issues that impact on education. CASA is a federation of provincial and territorial affiliates whose members are professional education leaders. Associate members include professors of educational administration, graduate students in educational administration, and individual administrators.

###