



Tuesday, January 19, 2010

## **St. Patrick's Community School Principal Receives National Award**

*Red Deer...* Mrs. Kathleen Finnigan, Principal at St. Patrick's Community School, was declared a winner of the Canada's Outstanding Principals™ this morning in Toronto, Ontario. This prestigious national award is presented by the The Learning Partnership.

Canada's Outstanding Principals™ award recognizes the unique and crucial contributions of principals in publicly funded schools. It is presented annually in February to thirty Canadian principals. Winners are treated to a four-day Executive Leadership Training program at the Rotman School of Management at University of Toronto, a Gala Celebration Banquet and Awards Presentation to take place on February 23, recognition in the Globe and Mail, and an on-line program managed by The Learning Partnership.

Mrs. Finnigan says, "I have been very fortunate to have had great leaders in my lifetime who have truly inspired me along the way. And I continue to work with some of the greatest people."

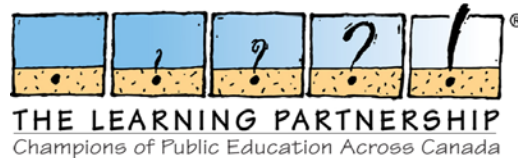
Superintendent Paulette Hanna says, "Kathleen is very deserving of this award. Her passion for her students and their success is well known in the community. She is a very caring and humble principal and well respected by staff, students, parents and colleagues. We are very proud and happy for her as she wins this award."

*The Red Deer Catholic Regional District serves 6300 students in Red Deer, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail and Red Deer County. As a learning institution, Red Deer Catholic Regional District is committed to serve children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and tradition and within the means of the Division.*

### **For more information, see attached Backgrounder and/or contact:**

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For Immediate Release

## Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2010 announced *32 outstanding principals to be honoured in February*

**TORONTO – January 19, 2010** – Great principals build great schools. They communicate a compelling vision, they engage their communities, they nurture their staff and they create an environment that increases student success.

32 exceptional leaders in education from across the country have been chosen as *Canada's Outstanding Principals™* for 2010.

The Canada's Outstanding Principals (COP) program is in its 6<sup>th</sup> year and this year's winners will join the assembly of 155 previous recipients of this prestigious honour. The award is an initiative of The Learning Partnership, a national not-for-profit organization that has championed public education in Canada since 1993.

The award is presented to principals who have made a measurable difference in the lives of their students and their own local communities. They help ensure that Canada's young people continue to receive a quality world-class education.

"Strong leadership is what makes Canada's education system one of the finest in the world," says **Veronica Lacey**, President & CEO of The Learning Partnership. "Our principals set the tone for a school and their communities and children across the country are benefitting from the work of these remarkable men and women."

*Canada's Outstanding Principals* program utilizes the expertise of University of Toronto's Joseph L. Rotman School of Management to provide executive leadership training and resources. This year's principals will join their colleagues from the National Academy of Canada's Outstanding Principals. Through the experience of connecting with other outstanding leaders the principals will form the foundation for a national network of knowledge that can be applied to their school, local community and province.

Reflecting the desire to recognize the unique challenges that educational leaders face in on-reserve schools, Linda Gadwa, principal of Kehewin Community Education Centre, Kehewin, Alberta will receive a special award from The Learning Partnership for her exceptional leadership.

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### **For information and interview scheduling of Veronica Lacey and winners:**

Carrie Shibinsky- The Learning Partnership

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*The following two pages provide winners' names and background on the program*

**Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2010 are:**

**Alberta**

Kathleen Finnigan	St. Patrick's Community School	Red Deer, Alberta
Sandra Levesque	Falconridge School	Calgary, Alberta
Mike Bolder	Blessed John XXIII Elementary and Junior High School	Calgary, Alberta
Linda Gadwa	Kehewin Community Education Centre	Kehewin, Alberta

**British Columbia**

David Derpak	Vancouver Technical Secondary School	Vancouver, British Columbia
Lisa McCullough	Mount Boucherie Secondary School	Kelowna, British Columbia
Rhonda Ovelson	A.S. Matheson Elementary School	Kelowna, British Columbia
Lynne Moorhouse	View Royal Elementary School	Victoria, British Columbia

**Manitoba**

Laurie Bachewich	Onanole Elementary School	Onanole, Manitoba
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**New Brunswick**

Mike BeLong	Hillcrest School	Moncton, New Brunswick
Elizabeth Horgan	St. Malachy's Memorial High School	Saint John, New Brunswick

**Newfoundland**

Barry Jenkins	Villanova Junior High	Conception Bay South Newfoundland and Labrador
Vaughn Granter	Corner Brook Regional High	Corner Brook, Newfoundland and

Labrador

**Northwest Territories**

Janette Vlanich

Sir Alexander MacKenzie School

Inuvik, Northwest Territories

**Nova Scotia**

Debbie Metherall  
Terry Wadden

Rockingstone Heights School  
Sir John A. Macdonald  
High School,

Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Upper Tantallon,  
Nova Scotia

**Nunavut**

Cathy Lee

Attagoyuk Ilisavik,

Pangnirtung, Nunavut

**Ontario**

Jan Olsson  
Cindy Zwicker Reston

Huntsville High School  
Bendale Business and  
Technical Institute

Huntsville, Ontario  
Toronto, Ontario

Theresa Harper-Dubé

Loyola School of Adult and  
Continuing Education

Napanee, Ontario

Marlyne King  
Beverley Muir

Lancaster Public School  
Humberwood Downs Junior  
Middle Academy

Mississauga, Ontario  
Toronto, Ontario

Joanne Lombardi  
Beverley Ohashi  
Ron Curridor

St. James Catholic School  
Earl Haig Secondary School  
Monsignor J. H. O'Neil  
Catholic Elementary School

Seaforth, Ontario  
Toronto, Ontario  
Tillsonburg, Ontario

Agnes Cudmore  
Wes Hahn

St. Mary's Catholic School  
R.A. Riddell Elementary School

Blind River, Ontario  
Hamilton, Ontario

**Prince Edward Island**

Kevin Stonefield

Montague Intermediate School

Montague,  
Prince Edward Island

**Quebec**

Myra Kestler

Harold Napper School

Brossard, Quebec

**Saskatchewan**

Faye Elke

Evan Hardy Collegiate Institute

Saskatoon,  
Saskatchewan

Garth Anderson

Foam Lake Composite School

Foam Lake,  
Saskatchewan**Yukon**

Ted Hupé

Holy Family Elementary School

Whitehorse, Yukon

Nominations were received from every province and territory and selection was on a representation by population basis. Judging was conducted by a distinguished group of Canadian education, community and private sector leaders. Each candidate was scored in the categories of: characteristics of outstanding principals; evidence of partnerships with parents and community; a personal story illustrating successful change and innovation which resulted in improved student achievement as well as letters of support.

In February, the winning principals are invited to a five-day Executive Leadership Training Program at the prestigious University of Toronto's Joseph L. Rotman School of Management where they will have the opportunity to dialogue and reflect on leadership issues with other leaders from the educational, social, cultural and business communities. This year's winners join an illustrious group of 155 principals who have already been awarded this prestigious honour. In addition, on February 23, the winners will be formally honoured for their contributions at the *Canada's Outstanding Principals Gala Awards Celebration*, which is being held in Toronto at the Delta Chelsea Hotel.

*Canada's Outstanding Principals™* is made possible through the generous sponsorship of CIBC and Deloitte.

Established in 1993, The Learning Partnership is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to championing a strong public education system in Canada through innovative programs, executive leadership, credible research, policy initiatives and public engagement with its partners. Since its inception, more than four million students and leaders in education have participated in one or more of TLP's programs, including *Take Our Kids to Work™*, *Welcome to Kindergarten™*, and *Entrepreneurial Adventure*. More information can be found at [www.thelearningpartnership.ca](http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca) and [www.canadasoutstandingprincipals.ca](http://www.canadasoutstandingprincipals.ca).