



## Quebec English School Boards Association elects Debbie Horrocks as President



### *Low voter turnout? Context Please*

Nelson Wiseman, a University of Toronto political scientist and frequent commentator on political participation (*just Google him to find his many articles*), finds that low voter turnout is increasingly a fact of life throughout the western world. He says that since the 1950s, turnouts have dropped in 17 of 19 Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

He cites such statistics as turnout being less than 53 % in Ontario's recent election.

Although between the mid-1960s and 1993, federal turnout bounced around the mid-70% range, in 2000 it was 64% and, in the two elections since then, less than 61%.

This is despite multi-million dollar election campaigns and dominating the front pages of newspapers and lead TV and radio spots for months leading up to election day.

Low school board election turnout is lower, but considering the budget trustees have for campaigning, and the relative media neglect, this issue is obviously part of a bigger trend.

The CSBA is committed to providing hard information about the relative public profile of school boards, how well Canada's school boards perform in international comparison (very well, thank you very much) and some best practices for trustees to build their community profile and support.

Ms. Horrocks, elected at this weekend's Annual General Meeting of the association, will serve a two-year term.

The Vice-Chair of the Riverside School Board, she served as QESBA's Vice-President in the last administration and is a CSBA Director.

She is married, a mother of three and has been an active volunteer in Quebec's English public school system since 1990.

Ms. Horrocks is also a member of various parent, school and orientation committees at Prévile School in Saint Lambert and Centennial Regional High School in Greenfield Park on the south shore of Montreal.

She has been an elected commissioner (trustee) since 1998, a Member of the QESBA Board since 1999, the Vice-Chair of Riverside School Board since 2003 and Vice-President of QESBA since 2006. And no one has forgotten her enormously successful co-chairing of the the Canadian School Boards Association 2006 Congress in Montreal.

### **Sharing Our Success: Promising Practices in Aboriginal Education**

The Society for the Advancement of Excellence in Education (SAEE) has just released the Proceedings Report from its recent national conference entitled. Held in Winnipeg, the conference featured best practices in Canadian education. This tightly written report summarizes conference sessions and provides an overview of progress being made and outstanding issues to be addressed.

[www.sae.ca/pdfs/ProceedingsPaper.pdf](http://www.sae.ca/pdfs/ProceedingsPaper.pdf)

### **Reminder! Teach Our Children Well - Congress 2008, Regina - July 3-5 2008**



*Dog River (home of "Corner Gas") excursion to visit a Hutterite Colony.*

Best practices workshops, aboriginal education, CSBA policy discussion documents to be debated, golf and other forms of great entertainment – can't wait to see you in July!

[www.saskschoolboards.ca](http://www.saskschoolboards.ca)

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association is one of the CSBA's most active and largest member associations. It provides its school boards with a wide range of unique services, from insurance and legal services, to one of the nation's most extensive trustee education programs. It has also launched a special initiative to recruit and train aboriginal staff for school boards.

Patricia Parulekar, National Director  
Ottawa, February 1, 2007