



## Where have they gone!

Past President Gerri Gershon, (2005-2006) is still a busy trustee with the Toronto District School Board.

She also sits on the board of the Learning Partnership and remains available to the CSBA Secretariat for her wisdom and advice –

and as an occasional participant in national public policy committees such as PrevNet, the network of organisations dealing with the prevention of bullying.

## OPSBA's Public Education Symposium

Reminder! The Ontario Public School Boards' Association's Public Education Symposium will be held this February 1-3 in Toronto.

### OPSBA Symposium Highlights

- \* Who Does What? Clarifying the Legal Roles of Trustees, Staff and "the Board"
- \* Tools to Help Trustees, Boards and Staff to Work Together Effectively to the Benefit of Students

The symposium is organized in partnership with ACÉPO (Ontario's Francophone public school boards association) and includes workshops on governance, labour relations, special education, funding model and restorative justice.

[www.opsba.org](http://www.opsba.org)

## CMEC's 2007 PCERA Symposium

The 2007 *Pan-Canadian Education Research Agenda* Symposium will be held in Ottawa this January 29-30.

Its aim will be to share provincial/territorial literacy practices and policies, highlighting how policy-relevant research and data can be used to assist policy makers to develop action plans for improving literacy.

There will be a session focusing on literacy issues from an Aboriginal perspective.

The focus will be on connections between data, research and policy.

"Best practices" will be examined to see how research and data can help to identify the elements that make those practices effective.

A further purpose of the event is to inform future decisions about PCERA research activities relating to literacy, by identifying key research questions and priorities that are of pan-Canadian interest.

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

## BCSTA and Adult Literacy

Below is a summary of Penny Tees, President of the British Columbia School Trustees Association input to the BC Ministry's review of Adult/Community Literacy.

"BC school boards are in favour of an expanded mandate in adult/community literacy....many boards are already active in this area. School boards see many opportunities to becoming more involved in adult/community literacy. These include positive impact on K-12 student achievement, increased community engagement, enhanced partnerships, and more efficient use of expertise and resources, to name a few.

While school boards would welcome an expanded mandate to include adult/community literacy, they are clear that any expansion must be accompanied by resources sufficient to ensure that K-12 programs are not negatively affected, as financial and human resources within school districts are already stretched by increasing demands."

[www.bcsta.org](http://www.bcsta.org)

## Saskatchewan School Boards Survey

The Association has an on-line survey to profile opinions of its boards on important issues.

It asks those who take the survey to rate a number of issues on a number of factors. Each section concludes by asking participants to indicate need for improvement.

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

## Sample Materials from ASBA's Legal Beagles

The Alberta School Boards Association's legal department carefully watches matters affecting school boards. Here is a sample of the work they do:

### Briefs

- November 28, 2006 - *Supreme Court to hear case about drug sniffing dogs*
- October 10, 2006 - *Summary changes to the Student Records Regulation*
- October 10, 2006 - *Judgment highlights trustee pecuniary interest rules*
- **The ASBA At Your Service Legal Newsletter**
- November 2006 - *Court rules two-minute absence may have compromised fairness of process and Supreme Court of Canada to hear appeal of law which precludes school board employees from serving as school board trustees in Alberta*
- May 2006 - *Court rules school board employees not eligible to serve as trustee*
- October 2004 - *Supreme Court of Canada rules that reasonable use of force against children is legal*

[www.asba.ab.ca](http://www.asba.ab.ca)