

# Media Release

## ***Local trustee and Indigenous community partner, and elementary school receive Public School Boards' Association of Alberta award***

June 6, 2022 (Red Deer, AB) ... A unique partnership between the Hinton Friendship Centre (HFC) and Crescent Valley Elementary School has netted a public education award from the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA).

The two organizations have been working together to meet the education needs of the Indigenous students who attend Crescent Valley. One of their key pieces of work has been the early identification of students who are most at risk of dropping out of school early.

For this partnership, these community partners are recipients of the PSBAA award, Promoting and Advancing one or more of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in relation to education within Alberta. The HFC was represented by Yvonne Oshanyk, Executive Director of the Hinton Friendship Centre Society and Trustee for Hinton, and Rod Armstrong, principal at Crescent Valley Elementary.

Carolyn Lewis, Superintendent of the Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, nominated the partnership and noted that Crescent Valley is a unique school with a mix of Cree, Saulteaux, Michif and Inuit students.

“We are very proud of this partnership because it is making such a difference for the students in our jurisdiction,” said Carolyn. “HFC data and provincial data indicates that students who will eventually drop out of school are identifiable by grade four. Therefore, the partnership program is designed initially to reach out to effect early change for K-3 students.”

The PSBAA held its annual awards evening at its Spring General Assembly in Red Deer. A total of seven awards were presented.

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) is the voice of public school boards in the province. We believe public schools are the first choice in our communities, where children can go to learn and live the values of democracy together, reflecting our hope, and shaping the future of our communities.

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