

Welcome Back to the New School Year:



This week marks the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year for all staff. I hope you were able to enjoy a summer that included some well-deserved rest and relaxation. We are fortunate in Nova Scotia that we can return to school with a high degree of safety. We anticipate this school

year will be marked by the things we can do, rather than by the things we cannot. Collectively, your leadership at the school and system level played an important role to make this possible

This August PSAANS turned three years old. For 18 months, or half of the time that we have been an Association, we have been navigating a pandemic. As always, we will continue to follow the guidance of the experts at the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health as we move to “Living with COVID”. We expect that guidance for schools will continue to be based on the application of the broader community guidelines with the ability to apply sector specific guidelines. It has been our flexibility to make course corrections that has enabled our success. Again, this was accomplished through your leadership.

We are hopeful that this fall will see the completion of our first negotiated Major Terms and Conditions of Employment in tandem with the completion of the EECD and Public Service Commission compensation review. The Board of Directors believes that these two foundational elements can only be resolved as complementary documents to establish the total compensation package for administrators comprising all salary and benefit provisions. You can expect further information as it becomes available

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, September 7, 2021: Information distribution and registration opens for the Annual PSAANS Professional Learning Conference.

Wednesday, September 8, 2021: 2021-2022 Board of Directors Election and Appointment Information communicated to members.

Monday, September 13, 2021: Nominations open for the Board of Directors Election and Appointments.

Wednesday, September 22, 2021: Nominations close for the Board of Directors Election and Appointments.

Friday, September 24, 2021: Candidate information for the Board of Directors Election posted to the PSAANS website.

Wednesday, September 29, 2021: Annual General Meeting information (2021-2022 budget, etc.) communicated to members.

Thursday, September 30, 2021: Election for the Board of Directors.

Friday, October 1, 2021: Election results for the Board of Directors announced.

Thursday, October 7, 2021: Appointments to the Board of Directors announced.

Wednesday, October 13, 2021: Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 4:00 p.m. (Virtual)

Friday, October 22, 2021: PSAANS Annual Professional Learning Conference.

Thursday, December 7, 2021 & Wednesday, December 8, 2021 (Tentative): PSAANS Pre-retirement Seminar (Virtual)

While this work is being completed the Association is turning its mind to building forward and envisioning the future. In the coming weeks you will see a posting for a part-time contract for the role of Coordinator of Professional Learning, and a Request for Proposal for facilitating a Strategic Planning process. Both of these opportunities herald the start of new work built upon the foundation we have established with member services and governance as an independent and sustainable organization. The strength of the strategic planning process will hinge on member participation to establish a plan for the years ahead.

As the year commences, I encourage all of us to plan forward for the future with the lessons we have learned through the pandemic. We need to take care of those for whom we are responsible, take care of ourselves, and remember that we are all in this together.

Tim Simony
Chair

Contract Opportunities:

PSAANS is in the process of developing Request for Proposals (RFP) for two contract positions as follows:

Strategic Plan Development: During the fall, PSAANS is looking to start the development of its first strategic plan to set the vision and goal for the Association for the next 3-5 years. This is a short-term position for a period of 25 days. Further details regarding this position will be communicated to members in the near future.

Coordinator of Professional Learning: The Coordinator of Professional Learning will provide leadership in the establishment, development, and implementation of a variety of virtual and in-person professional learning opportunities for members. This is a one-year contract position consisting of two days per week. Further details

regarding this position will be communicated to members in the near future.

Annual PSAANS Professional Learning Conference:

The Annual PSAANS Professional Learning Conference (Virtual) will be held on Friday, October 22, 2021. This year's theme is "Leading Inclusive Education" and will feature two keynotes. There will also be opportunities to attend Concurrent Sessions, some of which will be available in French. **Further details will be distributed on September 7, 2021.**

The poster for the PSAANS Leading Inclusive Education 2021 Virtual Conference features a dark blue background with white and light blue circular patterns. At the top, the PSAANS logo is displayed. The main title "Leading Inclusive Education 2021 Virtual Conference" is prominently featured. A green circle on the right indicates the date and time: "Friday October 22 9:00 am to 3:00 pm". Below this, it states "Featuring two Keynotes and two concurrent sessions". Two circular portraits are included: one for Tanya Talaga, described as an "Ojibwe author and truth-teller", and another for Andy Hargreaves, described as a "speaker, author, adviser and researcher". A third circular portrait for Jess Whitley, described as an "educator and researcher", is partially visible. A list of concurrent session speakers is provided: Hughie Batherson, Joe Cuddemi, Wayn Hamilton, Karen Power, Dr. Monica Williams, and more. At the bottom, it notes that the conference is hosted online with service provided by Encore Global, and that registration and further information will be available by September 7th.