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Message From The Board Of Directors: CASSA's Year In Review

A brief look back at 2013 brings to mind a number of highlights for CASSA. The simple change of adding the word "System" helps describe who the members are, and gives greater clarity to the kind of work the organization will focus on.

This past July in St John's, CASSA held another quality conference. I enjoyed the sessions and the conversations I had with educational leaders from across the country. I look forward to the next conference in Calgary.

A third highlight is CASSA's new constitution. It clearly defines membership and how the board of directors is required to carry out their duties.

And finally, as a member of Manitoba Association of School Superintendents (MASS), our joining the CASSA family is another highlight. It was not an easy decision and it will be interesting to explore what the future holds for us as we work together for education in Canada.

If we take the purpose of CASSA seriously, that it "is the voice for senior education leaders to influence the direction of national issues that impact on education," there is a



Reg Klassen
CASSA board
of directors
MASS rep 1

large volume of work to look after. Being a national voice brings with it some very real challenges.

What comes to mind first is that the education mandate for each division or district in the country comes from the province or territory in which each resides. "Influencing the direction of the national issues" demands a level of communication, coordination, and connection by provincial and territorial organizations that CASSA is in a good position to orchestrate.

Secondly, when I discuss education with other "School System Administrators" from across the country, we invariably find we have similar issues in our regions. Educational issues do not know provincial or territorial boundaries. I believe CASSA has the potential to become a national voice for the country on how best to deal with educational matters that are challenging to resolve. As a national organization we are in a key position to take the very best "lessons learned" from each member organization and apply them to our individual systems.

The future for CASSA has the potential of playing an even more significant role on the national educational scene than might have been imagined at its inception. I look forward to what CASSA will accomplish in the future.

The Latest News From OCSOA

The Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA) has been busy this fall, welcoming 49 new supervisory officers and 12 new directors of education since our 2012 AGM. We are grateful for the funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education for an engaging Mentoring and Coaching Program coordinated by **Corrie Gicante** and **Michael O'Keefe**.

OCSOA's New Supervisory Officers' Orientation on October 9 included a welcome from president **Simone Oliver**. **Marg Shea-Lawrence**, chair of the Catholic Leadership and Faith Development Committee, focused on what it means to be a Catholic supervisory officer. **Michael Pautler**, executive director for the Institute for Catholic Education, presented an overview of the relationship between the literature on effective leadership and church teachings, "*Servant Leadership*"—*Called to Lead... Called to Serve as a Catholic Supervisory Officer*.

On October 10, all newly appointed supervisory officers in Ontario enjoyed an orientation by Ontario's Institute for Education Leadership (IEL). A highlight of this annual gathering is rotating small-group table discussions with the deputy minister and the seven assistant deputy ministers. Professor emeritus **Ken Leithwood** presented an overview of his recent document *Strong Districts and Their Leadership*.

The English Catholic Council of Directors of Education (ECCODE) held their annual general meeting on November 27 and 28. Special guests included Bishop **Gerard Bergie** and the presidents of Catholic partner associations, including **Marino Gazzola** (OCSTA), **Andre Potvin** (CPCO) and **James Ryan** (OECTA), as well as **Eric Roher** (Borden Ladner Gervais LLP).

Regional meetings have taken place in Gananogue, London, Toronto and Grimsby. The meeting agendas are determined locally and have included presentations by Bishop **Ronald Fabbro** and **Dan Moynihan**, Youth Ministry Coordinator for London diocese, **Roger Lawler** (OCSTA, OECTA, ACBO), **Michael Pautler** (ICE), **Noel Martin** (OCSTA) – *Bridge Builders*, and **Judith Nyman** (Ministry of Education) – Mental Health.



Theresa Harris
CASSA board of directors
OCSOA rep 1

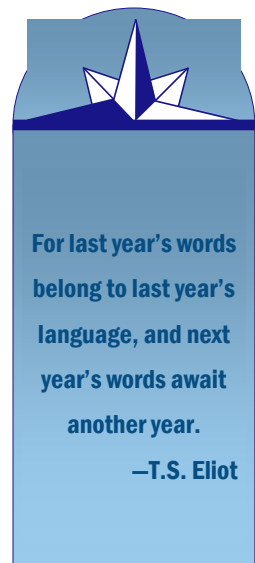
OCSOA's annual retreat, facilitated by Dr. **Robert Wicks**, will be held February 5 to 7, 2014, at the Kingbridge Conference Centre. Prior to the retreat, the Supervisory Officers Mentoring and Coaching group will be engaged in a workshop with Dr. **Mark Webber**, associate professor at the University of Waterloo.

This year's OCSOA AGM, *By Our Works, We Show Our Faith*, will be held at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, April 9 to 11, 2014. Speakers include Bishop **Doug Crosby** and **Jerry Goebel**.

OCSOA members are consistent presenters at CASSA's annual summer conferences. Please visit us online at www.ocsoa.ca to learn more about our association and our members.



OCSOA's representatives on the CASSA board with some of the Newfoundland hosts at the 2013 conference. From left to right: **Nick Milanetti**, **Anne O'Brien**, **Theresa Harris**, **Janice Schoening** (VP Publishing, Nelson Education) and **Eldred Barnes** (NLADE).



CASSA's Relationship With AASA: A Conversation With Former Executive Director Frank Kelly

Former CASSA executive director **Frank Kelly** may be retired from the position, but he still has a great interest in the relationship between CASSA and its American counterpart, the American Association of School Administrators. Here he shares his perspective on the cross-border relationship.

You were CASSA's executive director from 2000-2012. How would you describe the relationship between CASSA and AASA over those years? How has it changed since your first years as executive director?

The relationship between CASSA and AASA has been positive and beneficial to members. We enjoyed meeting with AASA executives in various American cities and at our annual conferences in Canada. A feature of our CASSA conferences has been the presentation by the AASA president or executive director. We had a very close personal relationship with **Paul Houston**, who advocated for building strong ties between the two organizations.

During my time as executive director, I met many strong superintendents in the United States and learned much from our meetings. I also contributed about 20 book reviews to the *AASA Administrator* magazine, and was privileged to work with their book selections.

Why is it important for CASSA to develop and maintain this relationship with AASA?

Regular meetings allow for networking with American education leaders and development of an understanding of common problems and initiatives. It is valuable to compare the effects of the political directions of both countries.

Through meeting with AASA, Canadians learn that there are so many small- and medium-sized school districts in the United States, many with fewer resources than we have here in Canada. We get a perspective on many of the creative programs developed in these boards.

Why is it important that AASA recognizes and honours the Superintendent of the Year from Canada (CASSA's EXL winner) at its annual conferences?

It is a proud moment for Canadians attending the AASA conference when they see their Superintendent of the Year honoured specifically by the thousands in attendance to recognize the American candidates.

AASA has gone out of their way to feature the Canadian representative. Over the years, the Canadian superintendent has received growing recognition here at local Canadian associations. Several now feature this selection as a prominent annual award.

Why is it important that AASA includes Canadian education leaders on its board of directors and on the board's executive committee? What unique insight or experience can they offer to their American colleagues that might otherwise not come forward?

Canada has developed a recognition on the American board of directors. It is a tribute to the work of **Bob Mills** that he has provided significant input to that AASA board and has moved on to be the first Canadian on their executive. We should make it a priority to have our representatives express Canadian views and assist with the decision making of the board of directors.

In addition to sending CASSA leaders to the AASA conference, CASSA also welcomes the AASA president to its annual conference. How does CASSA benefit from having an American perspective at this event?

As I mentioned, the address by the American president of AASA has become a feature of CASSA conferences. Most of the presidents have attended our entire conference and joined in sessions. Some have returned to our conference after finishing their presidency. AASA presidents represent various areas of the United States. They have given us overviews of the national issues and talked candidly about their own local initiatives and concerns.

Do you have any other thoughts you'd like to share about the relationship between CASSA and AASA, and your role in developing that relationship?

There is great value in understanding the work of AASA. I continue to go to their website regularly and follow their initiatives and political directions.

Education is an international enterprise. Our students need to be led by educators who are connected beyond their own country.

Thank you for contributing to the newsletter and for your role in fostering the strong relationship between the two organizations.



AASA's Relationship With CASSA: A Conversation With Executive Director Daniel Domenech

Daniel A. Domenech has served as executive director of the AASA since July 2008. Daniel has more than 40 years of experience in public education, 27 of those years served as a school administrator.

Prior to joining AASA, Daniel served as senior vice president for National Urban Markets with McGraw-Hill Education. Before that, Daniel served for seven years as superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia. He began his teaching career in New York City teaching sixth grade in South Jamaica, Queens. He then became program director for the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services. Daniel was named superintendent of schools for Long Island's Deer Park Schools and then became superintendent of schools for South Huntington School District, also on Long Island, for 13 years. From 1994 to 1997, he was district superintendent of the Second Supervisory District of Suffolk County and chief executive officer of the Western Suffolk BOCES.

Daniel has been an AASA member since 1979, and served as president from July 1998 to June 1999. He is also a past president of the New York State Council of School Superintendents, the Suffolk County Superintendents Association and the Suffolk County Organization for Promotion of Education. He was the first president and cofounder of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education.

Daniel serves on numerous boards and is current chair for Communities in Schools of Virginia. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hunter College in New York City and a PhD from Hofstra University in Uniondale, New York.

Here he shares his perspective on and experiences with the relationship between AASA and CASSA.

You have been AASA's executive director since 2008. How would you describe the relationship between AASA and CASSA today? How has it changed since you first came to the position?

Our relations with CASSA are very positive and more so since **Bob Mills** was elected to our executive committee.

Why is it important for AASA to develop and maintain this relationship with CASSA?

We are very interested in the fine work that our colleagues in Canada do in the education sector, and the idea exchange is healthy for both organizations.

Why is it important for AASA to recognize and honour the Superintendent of the Year from Canada (CASSA's EXL winner) at its annual conferences?

We want to recognize outstanding leaders in education from all sectors where we have membership. We are honoured to have a delegation of members from Canada and representation on both our governing board and executive committee.

Why is it important for AASA to include Canadian education leaders on its board of directors and on the board's executive committee? What unique insight or experience do they offer that might otherwise not come forward?

We have the opportunity to learn directly from the work being done in Canada, and conversely we receive feedback and comments on what we try to do here in the States from Cana-

dian educators that can offer an unbiased, objective perspective.

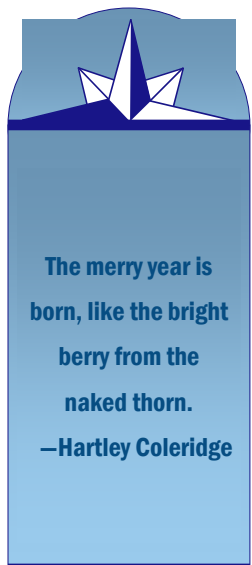
In addition to inviting CASSA leaders to its conference, AASA also sends its president to the CASSA conference each year. How does AASA benefit from having a representative at this event?

Our presidents have the opportunity to directly experience the relationship with CASSA, and to foster and advocate the growth of the relationship between the two associations.

Do you have any other thoughts you'd like to share about the relationship between AASA and CASSA?

We at AASA are truly honoured to have this relationship and we are grateful to have Canadian representation in our organization as well as on our governance structure. We hope that our relationship will grow and evolve into opportunities where we can work together to achieve our common goals.

Thank you for sharing your perspective with our readers.



The 2013–14 CASSA Board Of Directors

President

Roger Nippard
Northern Lights School Division
roger.nippard@nlsd.ab.ca

Past President

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells
Niagara Catholic District School Board
leeann.forsythsells@ncdsb.com

AASA Western Representative

Barry Wowk
St. Albert Public Schools
barry.wowk@spschools.org

AASA Eastern Representative

Nick Milanetti
Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board
nick.milanetti@dpcdsb.org

CASS Representative

Barry Litun
College of Alberta School Superintendents executive director
barry.litun@cass.ab.ca

CASS Representative

Larry Jacobs
College of Alberta School Superintendents president
ljacobs@wolfcreek.ab.ca

NWTSA Representative

Metro Huculak
Northwest Territories Superintendents Association chair
metro.huculak@yk1.nt.ca

MASS Representative

Reg Klassen
Manitoba Association of School Superintendents president
rklassen@rrsd.mb.ca

MASS Representative

Robert Chartrand
Manitoba Association of School Superintendents past
president
rchartrand@wsd1.org

OPSOA Representative

Kathy Soule
Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association executive
director
ksoule@opsoa.org

OPSOA Representative

Shawn Moynihan
Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association CASSA
representative
shawn.moynihan@peelsb.com

OCSSOA Representative

Theresa Harris
Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association executive
director
theresaharris@ocsoa.ca

OCSSOA Representative

Anne O'Brien
Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association regional
director
anne.obrien@dcdsb.ca

AAESQ Representative

Steven Colpitts
Association of Administrators of English Schools in Quebec
scolpitts@lbpsb.qc.ca

ADGESBQ Representative/AASA Board

Bob Mills
Association of Directors General of English School Boards of
Quebec president
bmills@lbpsb.qc.ca

NLADE Representative

Eldred Barnes
Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Directors of
Education executive director
ebarnes@nlade.ca

NLADE Representative

Jeff Thompson
Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Directors of
Education president
jeff.thompson@wnlsd.ca



Contact CASSA:

1123 Glenashton Drive
Oakville, ON
L6H 5M1
Canada

T: (905) 845-2345
F: (905) 845-2044
ken.bain@cassa-acgcs.ca

www.casa-acas.ca

Editor: Tara Lee Wittchen
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Our Mission

CASSA exists to promote and enhance effective administration and leadership in the provision of quality in education in Canada.



Our Beliefs

- School system administration is a noble profession.
- Effective leadership and administration of school systems are essential.
- Individually and collectively, school system administrators provide leadership for quality in education.
- Communication and cooperation with other stakeholder groups in education are vital.
- Individually and collectively, school system administrators can assist one another.

Our Goals

- To provide a national voice on education matters.
- To promote and provide opportunity for professional development of the membership.
- To promote communication and liaison with national and international organizations having an interest in education.
- To provide a variety of services to the membership.
- To recognize outstanding contributions to education in Canada.

The 2013–14 CASSA Executive Committee

President

Roger Nippard
Northern Lights School Division
roger.nippard@nlsd.ab.ca
(780) 826-3145

Past President

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells
Niagara Catholic District School Board
leann.forsythells@ncdsb.com
(905) 735-0240 ext. 228

Executive Director

Ken Bain
CASSA
ken_bain@cassa-acgcs.ca
(905) 845-2345

President Elect/Quebec Regional Director

Cindy Finn
Lester B. Pearson School Board
cfinn@lbpsb.qc.ca
(514) 422-3000

Professional Development Director

Ed Wittchen
Mother Earth's Children's Charter School
ed.wittchen@telus.net
(780) 222-4022

AASA Eastern Representative

Nick Milanetti
Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board
nick.milanetti@dpdsb.org
(905) 890-0708 ext. 24056

AASA Western Representative

Barry Wowk
St. Albert Public Schools
barry.wowk@spschools.org
(780) 460-3712

