

URBAN BOARDS STUDY GETS UNDERWAY NOV. 20

So far 27 school boards have signed up for the ASBA's Small Urban Boards' Study. **Suzanne Lundrigan** and consultant **Steve Cymbol** are convening the first meeting for this study on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 3 p.m. at the ASBA Fall General Meeting.

What boards have signed up?

Major Urban Centres

Ft. McMurray Catholic
Ft. McMurray Public
Grande Prairie Catholic
Grande Prairie Public
Holy Spirit
Lethbridge Public
Medicine Hat Public
Red Deer Catholic
Red Deer Public
St. Albert PSSD

Small Cities

Battle River
Grande Yellowhead
Living Waters
Northern Lights
St. Thomas Aquinas
Wetaskiwin
Wolf Creek

Suburban

Canadian Rockies
Chinook's Edge
Elk Island Catholic
Elk Island Public
Evergreen
Foothills
Greater St. Albert Catholic
Parkland
Rocky View

Livingstone Range School Division has also signed up but not yet decided which group to join.

On other study fronts.....

In response to a metro request that the ASBA work with metro boards to explore the relationship of metro boards within and between the ASBA, consultant **Leroy Sloan** will convene an exploratory meeting with the four metro boards to identify possible next steps to deal with this question.

ROY MACGREGOR KEYNOTE AT FGM

Globe and Mail columnist and long time journalist **Roy MacGregor** will speak about kid's literacy at the ASBA's Fall General Meeting. The author of more than two dozen books, MacGregor created *The Screech Owls* with a specific audience in mind: reluctant readers – specifically boys who will not pick up books.

Online registration for the ASBA FGM is available at www.asba.ab.ca until **4:30 p.m., Nov. 11**. For more information, contact **Noreen Pownall** npownall@asba.ab.ca

RECORD RESPONSE -- MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Booking telephone interviews with representatives of individual school boards in order to conduct the annual membership survey has generated outstanding response rates.

Consultant **Ken MacRae**, who is conducting the study, says there are just five more jurisdictions to interview. Thanks to all boards who have participated. The ASBA Board of Directors and association staff use the information gathered through the annual membership survey to plan for the next year and to modify or adjust the association's suite of services.

CSBA SPEAKS UP ON GST/ COPYRIGHT

Canadian School Boards Association President **Gerri Gershon** presented member school boards' position to the House of Commons Finance Committee Pre-Budget Consultations. Gershon spoke specifically about the GST on school board purchases, English as a second language, and copyright legislation, urging the Finance Committee to:

1. Allow Canadian school boards the same privilege as Canadian municipalities by giving us the same 100% exemption from GST.
2. Provide proper support for English and French second language learning and provide schools a level of other support that matches the needs of immigrant families.
3. Amend the Copyright Act to allow unimpeded use of freely available Internet information to students in Canadian schools.

Get an update on CSBA

For a CSBA update attend one of two sessions at the ASBA FGM:

- 10:45 a.m., Tues. Nov. 22
- 2:45 p.m., Tues. Nov. 22

NEW RESOURCES FOR ASBA MEMBERS

- The new **ASBA Governance Handbook** is now online. This new publication compiles all documents that assign decision-making authority within the association. For more information contact **Bobbie Garner** bgarner@asba.ab.ca