

## News Release

### **Saskatoon Public Schools names new director of education**

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The Saskatoon Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Charlene Scrimshaw as the new director of education for Saskatoon Public Schools, effective August 1, 2026. She currently serves as a deputy director for the division.

Board Chair Kim Stranden says the Board is confident in Scrimshaw’s ability to lead the division into its next chapter.

“Charlene is a respected and visionary leader who brings deep experience, integrity, and a genuine commitment to students and families,” says Stranden. “Her collaborative approach, strong relationships across our system, and unwavering focus on student success make her exceptionally well suited to serve as the next director of education.”

Scrimshaw has dedicated her entire career to Saskatoon Public Schools. Throughout that time, she has served as a teacher, school-based administrator, superintendent, and deputy director. In addition, she is a member of the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation (SPSF) Board of Directors and president of the Persephone Theatre Board of Directors.

Raised in the northern community of Big River, Saskatchewan, she and her partner, Dave, have four adult children and one granddaughter. She is widely regarded as a champion for all students in Saskatoon. Scrimshaw is recognized as a strong advocate for arts in education, along with nature-based and other unique programming that provides students with meaningful and inspiring experiences. Over the course of her career, Scrimshaw says she has seen firsthand the powerful role that diverse and unique opportunities through arts, sports, academics, outdoor learning and other experiences play in nurturing creativity, confidence, and overall well-being in students.

In her various roles with the division, she has demonstrated a strong and ongoing commitment to Indigenous students and families, grounded in respect, relationship-building, and a belief in the importance of culturally responsive education. She has also used her voice to advance learning environments where Indigenous students see themselves reflected, supported, and celebrated, and to ensure meaningful steps toward reconciliation are embedded in everyday practice across the division.

Scrimshaw has shown a commitment to staff that is equally strong and unwavering. She is recognized as someone that values authentic relationships and taking the time to understand colleagues' strengths, challenges, and aspirations, as well as ensuring they feel valued and supported in their work. She says she believes that when staff are empowered, heard, and well-supported, the entire organization thrives.

Scrimshaw succeeds Shane Skjerven, who will retire on July 31, 2026. At retirement, Skjerven will have served as an educator for 34 years, including 25 years with Saskatoon Public Schools and six years as director of education.

ENCLOSED: Charlene Scrimshaw headshot

*Saskatoon Public Schools is the largest school division in Saskatchewan, serving nearly 29,000 students with the support of more than 3,300 dedicated professional and support staff. The division includes 48 elementary schools and 10 secondary schools, including a flexible learning program for artists and athletes, and a unique partnership school — Charles Red Hawk Elementary School located on Whitecap Dakota Nation.*

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