



Distinguished Leadership Awards

OPSOA Honours Outstanding Leaders

At the annual Ontario Public Supervisory Officials Association (OPSOA) conference in Toronto on April 19, three OPSOA members were presented with the Distinguished Leadership Award. This award is presented annually to Supervisory Officers who demonstrate outstanding ability and leadership in public education.

This year's recipients include: Colin Vickers, Director of the Near North District School Board; Andy Scott, Superintendent with the Trillium Lakelands District School Board; and, Janet Wilkinson, Director of the Keewatin–Patricia District School Board. Together these individuals have demonstrated exemplary leadership at both the district and provincial levels.



L- R Award Winners Andy Scott, Colin Vickers, Janet Wilkinson
Presented By Ken Thurston, OPSOA President

Andy Scott has provided exemplary leadership in public education throughout his career. The Director of the Trillium Lakelands District School Board outlined just one of Andy's accomplishments when she wrote, "Dr. Scott's innovative and creative leadership of our Adult Education programs...has resulted in hundreds of adult learners as well as secondary school leavers graduating from secondary school." Andy provided visionary leadership in the area of virtual learning by establishing online programs for students and professional learning programs for staff. Andy has also played a significant leadership role in developing programs for and writing about educational leadership. He has been involved in training both supervisory officers and principals at the provincial level. Throughout his career, Dr Scott has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting leadership growth and development in public education. His commitment truly reflects the OPSOA vision and agenda.

Colin Vickers has had a long and distinguished career in public education; He has published several articles on leadership and has received numerous public awards. In his role as Director of Education, Colin has provided guidance, vision and leadership for the trustees, staff, students and community of the Near North District. Prior to assuming the role of Director, Colin provided leadership in planning and operations and student and community services for the Upper Canada District School Board. He has also provided significant provincial leadership as President of OPSOA and the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association. Colin has been very involved in numerous leadership positions outside of public elementary and secondary education including acting as a member of the Board of Governors of Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology and as a member of the Community and Social Services Advisory Committee. Throughout his career, Colin has also been actively involved in a number of community service organizations. OPSOA is extremely pleased to recognize this outstanding educational leader.

Janet Wilkinson has provided outstanding leadership in aboriginal education at both a district and provincial level. She has also provided leadership in her role as vice-chair of the Northern Ontario Education Leaders (NOEL). Through her dedicated leadership and vision, Janet has worked to focus attention on the unique needs of aboriginal students in the public education system. Through her hard work, guidance and support, the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board has developed early literacy, later literacy and oral language teaching strategies and programs. Janet has also been instrumental in developing and implementing a model for new teacher mentorship that pre-dated the provincial initiative and exemplifies her support for teaching excellence. At the provincial level, Janet has made significant progress in raising the awareness of and need for a provincial aboriginal education initiative. In recognition of her contribution in this area, Janet was named as the Co-Chair of the 2007 launch of the Ministry of Education Aboriginal Education Framework. Janet's willingness to share her expertise with other Directors and District School Boards has supported OPSOA members across the province.

Ontario Public Supervisory Officials continue to provide vision and leadership across thirty-two district school boards and as representatives and leaders on all provincial education initiatives. This year's three recipients of the OPSOA Distinguished Leadership Award provide outstanding role models for all educational leaders in the province.

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ONTARIO PUBLIC SUPERVISORY OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION (OPSOA)
BELIEVES THAT
PUBLIC EDUCATION SHOULD HAVE NO BOUNDARIES

OPSOA represents Supervisory Officials in the 31 English Language Public District School Boards in Ontario educating two-thirds of the students in the 72 publicly funded school boards.

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