

# COMMUNIQUÉ

## POUR DIFFUSION IMMÉDIATE



**Edmonton, April 11, 2016** – The Greater North Central Francophone Education Authority (CSCN) is pleased to announce the nomination of Robert Lessard as its new superintendent of schools. Mr. Lessard succeeds Henri Lemire who announced his retirement after 20 years as the CSCN’s superintendent and after a 42-year career in the field of education.

Robert Lessard brings some 20 years of experience in Francophone education in a minority setting, experience acquired in Saskatchewan. During that time, he was a teacher, school principal, assistant professor and assistant superintendent of schools. More recently, he managed his own educational consulting firm.

Mr. Lessard is truly passionate about education as illustrated by his own educational pathway. He holds an undergraduate diploma in Biology and a Master in Environment, both from the Université de Sherbrooke (QC), a Certificate in Education from the Université du Québec à Hull (QC) and a Master in Education from the University of Alberta. He is currently enrolled in a doctorate program in education at Simon Fraser University (BC). He also completed a number of training sessions in the area of human resources, change theory and project management.

Among his professional work experience, Mr. Lessard taught science and mathematics from 1998 to 2002 at École canadienne-française in Saskatoon, a school under the jurisdiction of Conseil des écoles fransaskoises (CÉF). He then became the school’s assistant principal in 2002 and, in 2003, he was appointed principal. In 2007, he joined the CÉF district office as assistant superintendent, a position he held for six years. In 2013, he was appointed assistant professor at Université Saint-Boniface and launched his own educational consulting firm, *Option 4*.

Mr. Lessard is very enthusiastic about the upcoming challenges at CSCN and is unreserved in his dedication to student success.

“I am very excited and proud to undertake a leadership mandate with CSCN”, he explains. “The mission and the vision of CSCN are aligned with my passion for Francophone education. I am pleased to join a diversified, competent and engaged team focused on student success.”

CSCN’s Chair Kevin Bell shared his pleasure with the hiring of Mr. Lessard, an educational leader amply qualified to pursue the work Mr. Henri Lemire accomplished over the past 20 years.

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“CSCN’s growth and stability over the past 20 years would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Mr. Lemire”, declared Kevin Bell. “Today with 19 schools and over 3,200 students, CSCN is no longer a small school board thanks to Henri Lemire. We acknowledge his accomplishments and we wish Mr. Lessard a very warm welcome. I am convinced that Mr. Lessard will be up to the task and continue along the lines of Mr. Lemire’s successes.”

Last fall, CSCN retained the services of Odgers Berndtson, a professional recruitment firm, to launch a transparent, open and objective hiring process. A hiring committee – comprised of four school trustees, two Public and two Catholic – as well as CSCN’s human resources coordinator, hired Mr. Lessard based on recommendations made by the firm who received a large number of strong applications for the position.

Robert Lessard will join the board on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and transition with the current superintendent until July 31<sup>st</sup>. He will officially become the board’s superintendent on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Robert Lessard will be available for interviews with the media after May 2<sup>nd</sup>. For all inquiries and interview requests, please contact Julie Plourde, Communication Coordinator, at 780-468-6440.

Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord wishes Mr. Lessard a warm welcome and much success in his new role at CSCN.

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### Source:

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