

MEDIA STATEMENT

Date of release: October 4, 2022

Prairie Spirit teacher receives Prime Minister's Award

Jennifer Mason, a Prairie Spirit teacher and Vice-Principal of Hepburn School, has been awarded a Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education.



Jennifer Mason

Jennifer was the only educator from Saskatchewan awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. She is well-known in the province as an innovator and leader in exploratory play-based education for early learners.

"I'm incredibly grateful to have received a Prime Minister's Award. During my career, I have been fortunate to learn from many remarkable educators from within Saskatchewan and outside our borders. It's humbling to have my name mentioned with them now. Thank you to the community of Asquith and Prairie Spirit School Division, as they have truly shaped the teacher I am today," Mason said.

"Jen is a strong leader in early learning in Prairie Spirit School Division," said Darryl Bazylak, Director of Education. "She provides invaluable support and coaching to other teachers, both in our Division and around the province." She is regularly invited to be a presenter, facilitator and guest lecturer at the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan.

Prime Minister's Award recipients were nominated by their colleagues. A nominator said that Jennifer is a "master" at creating a warm and inviting learning environment where students are supported to pursue their interests and develop their individual talents and identities.

Another nominator pointed out that Jen purposefully develops a culturally inclusive learning environment. "A strong advocate for advancing Reconciliation, she integrates Indigenous culture and ways of knowing into her classroom through literature, oral storytelling, initiation to Indigenous traditions and outdoor learning."

The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education have recognized outstanding educators since 2002. Recipients are celebrated for their leadership, exemplary early childhood education practices, and their commitment to help build the foundation children need to make the best possible start in life.

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[Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education \(canada.ca\)](#)
[2022 Recipient biographies: Excellence in Early Childhood Education \(canada.ca\)](#)