

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Prairie Spirit signs Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol**

Prairie Spirit School Division demonstrated its ongoing commitment to building safer schools and communities by signing the Saskatoon and Area Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol (CTASP) on Wednesday, November 27 in Saskatoon. Board Chair Larry Pavloff and John Kuzbik, Director of Education, signed the agreement on behalf of Prairie Spirit School Division.

The community protocol is guided by the principle that violence prevention in schools and neighbourhoods is a community responsibility. As a result of joining this protocol, 19 community partners are able to share information and advice and to use their broad range of expertise to provide supports to youth and families in the community.

“We are pleased to sign this protocol and to be a part of the great work that has been developed in our community,” said Kuzbik.

Prairie Spirit Learning Superintendent, Karen McKee, is responsible for overseeing critical incident responses in the school division. “As a result of being part of this agreement, information about a child or youth who poses a risk for violence towards themselves or others can be shared in a timely, proactive way with other human service agencies,” McKee explained.

“The protocol offers support to our staff in dealing with complex situations with the clear communication, expectations and processes that have been developed,” she added.

Each organization that has signed the protocol has committed to ensuring their leaders are fully trained in violence threat risk assessment. All administrators in Prairie Spirit School Division are being trained in assessing violence threat risks in their schools. Since all community partners receive the same training, they will benefit from a shared understanding and common language in assessing possible violence.

McKee pointed out that the school division is inviting other community partners who serve Prairie Spirit students to join the protocol and to benefit from the training.

There are 19 community agencies committed to this protocol, including Conseil des écoles fransaskoises, Saskatoon Public Schools, Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division, Prairie Spirit School Division, the University of Saskatchewan, local law enforcement agencies, local community service organizations and provincial government ministries. This agreement was first signed by 13 partners in 2011.

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*John Kuzbik, Director of Education and Larry Pavloff, Board Chair, signing the protocol*



*Representatives from the 19 organizations that signed the Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol (CTASP)*