

## Get Involved

School trustees make an important contribution to our community.

As leaders in our education system, they play a key role in policy development and decision making.



On behalf of their communities, trustees help to ensure that children receive the academic and social skills they need to participate fully in society.

This is *your* opportunity to get involved in our education system, whether you want to run as a candidate in the upcoming election on Monday, May 26, or encourage someone to put their name forward. Whichever your choice, always remember to get out and cast your vote as an elector in your school zone.

Education is everyone's business. Make it yours!



Gerard Greenan  
Minister of Education and  
Early Childhood Development

## Role of the School Trustee

The school trustee represents the educational needs of the students and parents in the area that the board or district represents. Trustees participate actively in decisions of the school boards. Provincial law describes the responsibilities of the school trustee as:

- to attend meetings of the school boards and exercise the powers and the duties of a trustee in good faith.
- to comply with the requirements of the regulations concerning conflict of interest; and
- to comply with all the requirements of the *School Act*, School Board Regulations, as well as the Minister's Directives.

The trustee is not only a decision maker, acting in concert with the other trustees on the board, but also acts as an agent of the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to ensure that the *School Act*, School Board Regulations and Minister's Directives are followed.

## Responsibilities

As noted in the *School Act*, the responsibilities of school boards are:

- to provide instruction in an educational program to all those enrolled and eligible.
- to provide for the management of staff and staff development needs.
- to provide for and manage facilities and equipment.
- to provide transportation for

students.

- to manage the financial affairs of the school board.
- to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of schools.
- to ensure the development and approval of school improvement plans.
- to encourage good relations among schools, parents and the community, and to promote awareness of the importance of education.

## Qualifications

The *School Act* requires that a school trustee must be:

- a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or more on election day; and
- a resident in the school unit for at least six months prior to election day;

and cannot be an employee of any school board or the Department of Education.

A French Language School Board trustee must meet **one** of the following qualifications:

- must be the parent of a student receiving French first language instruction on PEL, or
- must be eligible to have a child receive French first language instruction, or
- must be eligible to have a child receive French first language instruction, if the candidate had a child.

## ***Nomination Process***

To be nominated as a candidate for school trustee, you must obtain the signatures of any 10 or more persons who also meet the trustee requirements, namely: Canadian citizens who are at least 18 years of age on or before the date of election, May 26, and who have been a resident in the board or district for at least six months. Please note that these 10 or more persons (nominators) must nominate a candidate for school trustee for the zone in which the nominators reside.

The nomination is made by filing, with the zone returning officer, a nomination paper in the form approved by the chief electoral officer, at any time between the beginning date of the election campaign (Monday, April 28) and 4 p.m. on nomination day (Friday, May 9).

Following nomination day, the chief electoral officer determines the eligibility of candidates. The names of all eligible candidates will be published in provincial newspapers. Details regarding the electoral zones and polling stations will also be published at that time. Also see Elections PEI website: [www.electionspei.ca](http://www.electionspei.ca)

## ***Length of Term***

Beginning this year, school trustees will be elected for a four year term. Where an election produces fewer than the prescribed number of trustees of a school board, the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall appoint, from those eligible to be candidates, the additional members necessary.

For additional information on school trustee positions contact:

Department of Education and  
Early Childhood Development  
Second Floor, Sullivan Building  
16 Fitzroy Street, PO Box 2000  
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N8  
Tel: (902) 368 4600; Fax: (902) 368 4663  
[www.edu.pe.ca](http://www.edu.pe.ca)

For additional information on the school trustee election process contact:

Elections PEI  
J. Angus MacLean Building  
94 Great George Street, PO Box 774  
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7L3  
Toll free tel: 1 888 234 VOTE (8683)  
Tel: (902) 368 5895; Fax: (902) 368 6500  
[www.electionspei.ca](http://www.electionspei.ca)



A Non-partisan Office of the Legislature

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***Thinking about  
serving as a  
school trustee?***

*Here's what you  
need to know*

