

Keeping us safe - a changing of the guard for Chinook's Edge safety program



Safety first - Linden Lonsberry (left) leaves a strong record of achievement when he retires at the end of March. Taking over the helm as Health & Safety Coordinator is Rod MacLean, a long-serving leader in Chinook's Edge. Rod was an administrator in Chinook's Edge schools for 18 years, before moving into a Central Office Leadership role as Division Principal. Rod is already at work in his new role as Safety Manager, and shares the philosophy that safety is the division's highest priority, because Chinook's Edge cares about its people.

After 16 years as the Safety Manager in Chinook's Edge, Linden Lonsberry will be retiring at the end of March. Linden created the successful division-wide safety program with a goal to lower WCB claims in the division. By implementing a series of intensive protocols, including reaching and retaining COR status as a division, Linden has created a culture of safety in every school and department in Chinook's Edge.

"Becoming COR certified is a major accomplishment that requires commitment from every person in our division," said Linden. "Remaining at that level of safety has reduced the number of WCB claims and created fairly substantial rebates. But most importantly it honours our people and the well-being of everyone who walks through our doors."

"I am most proud of the culture of safety that has been developed in Chinook's Edge. People work hard and take safety very seriously. There are safety reps in every school, an active Occupational Health & Safety Committee, and an annual safety audit. The staff in our schools have made me feel welcome and they always thank me, because they know things have improved because of the sound safety protocols we've worked on together. The hardest part of leaving is definitely saying goodbye. Chinook's Edge has been a marvelous place to work."

Linden's influence has been felt province-wide, through his five year role as President of Alberta Education's Health & Safety Association.

Congratulations to our exceptional leader!

Superintendent Kurt Sacher receives provincial Excellence in School System Leadership Award



A note from Chair Holly Bilton, on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Our Board joins the entire Chinook's Edge community in congratulating Kurt on this prestigious award from the College of Alberta School Superintendents. Everyone in our division is impacted daily by Kurt's expectation that all students and staff will achieve success. He truly cares for each person as an individual, and our Board has seen students and staff exceed their own expectations because of his belief in them.

Kurt is collaborative, open-minded and inquisitive by nature, and he is determined to make our division the best it can be. There is a spectacular amount of skill that he brings to his work, and his positive influence on our division is profound. We are very lucky to have him with us in Chinook's Edge!

Students Come First - Kurt wasted no time in connecting with Students Matter reps during the division's first COVID-19 lockdown.