



Board Office

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Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Dear Seven Oaks families,

Seven Oaks School Division is deeply saddened by the recent passing of long-time trustee, Derek Dabee. Since 2010, Derek had served as a trustee for Ward 2 (Maples, Aurora, Highland Pointe) and was in the midst of running for re-election.

Many in our community will remember Derek for his 16 years of service as a trustee, including his time as Board Chair. He was a strong advocate for public education, supporting teacher collective bargaining, championing our Filipino and Punjabi bilingual programs, advancing playground projects and the Garden City Collegiate tennis courts, and regularly representing the Board at divisional events. Derek was also a passionate supporter of climate education and the recognition of diversity throughout Seven Oaks. His contributions have left a lasting impact on our schools and community.

His commitment to education was mirrored by his dedication to the broader community, where he championed local and provincial sports, recreation, and human rights initiatives. Recognized with a City of Winnipeg Outstanding Volunteer Award for Recreation, Derek was the Founding President of the Burton Cummings Community Centre and served on the Maples Community Centre Board. He also contributed to organizations such as the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre and the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development. His commitment to equity and inclusion was reflected in his work with the City of Winnipeg Task Force on Equity and Diversity and the Civil Service Equity Employment Policy Committee. Derek was also well known within the Afro-Caribbean Association and the Asian Heritage Society of Manitoba.

We are so thankful to have known Derek and grateful for his service to the Division. Derek's role in supporting public education will continue to benefit students, families and staff into the future.

Sincerely,

Tony Kreml
Superintendent