

**Manitoba Education Research Network**

**Annual Report  
2015 - 2016**

**MERN**

Manitoba Education Research Network

## Message from the Director:

The Manitoba Education Research Network (MERN) is supported by an annual grant from Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning (AEL) with financial administration provided by the Manitoba School Improvement Program in 2015-16 and office space provided by the Faculty of Education, University of Winnipeg. MERN functions to support local education research interests on the part of all its members.

As an informal network organization, MERN depends on in kind contributions from the five education faculties in Manitoba and twelve affiliate education partners. These contributions from network members are increasingly significant due to the growing interest and support for MERN evident over time. In 2015-2016, MERN delivered an annual program of activities along with new initiatives related to teacher research groups and publishing activities. Highlights:

- The second annual forum on northern education, MERN North 2016, was held at UCN –The Pas campus in March 2016 and work began for an annual forum on urban education in 2016/17.
- The MERN Indigenous Education Research Group (MIERG) hosted a series of “bear-pit” sessions on indigenous perspectives in education, indigenous research methods, treaties and natural laws. MIERG released two publications in 2015-16: *MERN Occasional Paper Series, Indigenous Education, No. 2, “Skannen Ko’wa: Attributing Principles of Kashwenta to Manitoba’s Treaty Relationships”* by Frank Deer, University of Manitoba and *MERN Monograph Series II, “Tipachimowin: Stories from the Winnipeg Education Centre Teacher Education Experience”* by Helen Robinson-Settee.
- The Council of School Leaders of the Manitoba Teachers’ Society hosted a MERN Leadership Education Seminar in September 2015 with Dr. Ken McCluskey presenting “Thoughts about Tone, Educational Leadership, and Building Creative Climates in Our Schools”. Continuing this leadership theme for the MERN Fall 2015 Forum, Ken Klassen’s keynote address was titled “An Emergent Model for Regenerative Leadership Education” at the Université de Saint-Boniface in November 2015. Occasional papers accompanied each of these presentations.

In addition to face-to-face events, technology supports an array of MERN activities. The MERN website, [www.mern.ca](http://www.mern.ca), continues as the network hub. The University of Winnipeg facilities are used to connect Winnipeg network members to Brandon University and the two campuses of the University College of the North. Frontier School Division (FSD) supports MERN teleconferences and is lead for the MERN Winter Forum that is streamed from three locations: Thompson, Cranberry Portage and Winnipeg.

I am pleased to provide this annual report for 2015 – 2016 on behalf of the Manitoba Education Research Network.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Hunter, B.A., Ed. Cert., MSW, PhD.  
Manitoba Education Research Network

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## 1. Preface

The Manitoba Education Research Network supports research events and activities related to schools and schooling in Manitoba. MERN sponsors include Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, twelve education partner organizations, school divisions and the five faculties of education in the province. Now in an eleventh year of operation, the network has an established program of Manitoba-based research events and activities. These core functions are sustained on an annual basis with new elements developed in response to evolving priorities, leadership directions and to reflect the expanding knowledge base in the field.

## 2. Mandate

The Manitoba Education Research Network (MERN) supports liaison with deans of education in Manitoba universities, superintendents of school divisions and senior leaders in the education field regarding Manitoba-based research in education. MERN works to improve the quality of education in Manitoba through a collaborative effort on the part of Manitoba's five faculties of education, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning and its affiliated partner organizations.

## 3. Governance

### 3.1 MERN Deans Advisory Group

The MERN Deans Advisory Group members are the deans of education faculties from Manitoba universities, the Deputy Minister of Education, and the Director of MERN (chair).

In 2015 – 2016:

Stefan Delaquis, Dean, Université de Saint-Boniface  
Heather Duncan, Dean, Brandon University  
Gerald Farthing, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Education  
Heather Hunter, Manitoba Education Research Network (Chair)  
David Mandzuk, Dean, University of Manitoba  
Ken McCluskey, Dean, University of Winnipeg  
David Williamson, Dean, University College of the North

MERN Editorial Board:

Members of the MERN Deans Advisory Group participate on the MERN Editorial Board and Dr. Jon Young, Consulting Editor for MERN publications.

### 3.2 MERN Affiliates Group

The MERN Affiliates Group members are executive directors and senior leaders of major education partner organization and the Director of MERN (chair).

In 2015– 2016:

Maxine Geller, Council of School Leaders of the Manitoba Teachers' Society  
Heather Hunter, Manitoba Education Research Network (Chair)  
Ken Klassen, Manitoba Association of School Superintendents  
Naomi Kruse, Manitoba Association of Parent Councils  
Olga Mclvor, Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre  
Sharon Parenteau, Louis Riel Institute, Manitoba Metis Federation  
Terry Price, Manitoba Teachers' Society  
Helen Robinson-Settee, Director, Aboriginal Education Directorate  
Rob Santos, Associate Secretary, Healthy Child Manitoba Office  
Roy Seidler, Executive Director, Manitoba Association of School Business Officials  
Amanda Simard, Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba  
Eleanor Thompson, Executive Director, Urban Circle Training Centre  
Josh Watt, Executive Director, Manitoba School Boards Association

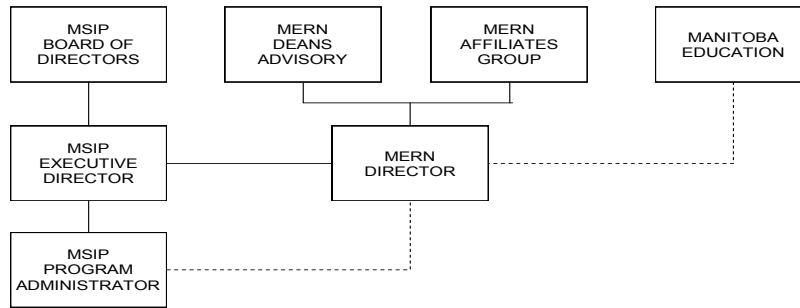
## 4. Responsibilities

The Manitoba Education Research Network serves public education by carrying out responsibilities for:

- a) Facilitating a province-wide education research community,
- b) Increasing professional learning through inquiry,
- c) Creating opportunities for research connections across the field, and
- d) Supporting education priorities most relevant to Manitoba through collaborative research activities.

## 5. Organizational Chart

MERN - Organizational Chart



*MERN Organizational Chart April 2012*

## 6. Financial Information

MERN financial information also appears in the 2015 – 2016 Manitoba School Improvement Audited Financial Statement tabled at the MSIP AGM, November 2016.

MERN received \$ 93,000 as an annual operating grant from Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning in 2015-2016.

### MERN Budget 2015-16

	Budgeted	Actual
Salaries	\$ 85,500.00	\$85,500.00
Travel/Related Costs	2,800.00	2,800.00
Forums/Events	3,300.00	3,300.00
Membership Fees	200.00	200.00
Other Operating Costs	1,200.00	1,200.00
	\$ 93,000.00	\$ 93,000.00

## 7. Performance Reporting

The following table summarizes MERN activities for the 2015/16 reporting year:

PROGRAM AREA	2015- 2016 ACTIVITIES	IMPACT/COMMENTS/RESOURCES
Governance		
	<b>MERN Deans Advisory Group</b> Spring 2015 Meeting – June 19, 2015 <hr/> Fall 2015 Meeting – September 9, 2015	Location – Manitoba Legislative Building <hr/> Location – CISCO Room @UW
	<b>MERN Affiliates Group</b> Spring 2015 Meeting – June 17, 2015 <hr/> Fall 2015 Meeting – September 9, 2015	Location – Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA) <hr/> Location – MSBA
	<b>MERN Joint Advisory Meeting</b> December 8, 2015	Location – CISCO Room @ University of Winnipeg (UW)
Forums		
	<b>MERN Spring 2015 Forum, “Inquiry in Teaching and Learning”</b> May 15, 2015	125 participants Facilities – University of Manitoba Leads – University of Manitoba (UM), Manitoba Teachers’ Society (MTS)
	<b>MERN Fall 2015 Forum – “Regenerative Leadership in Education”</b> November 20, 2015	90 participants Facilities – Université de Saint-Boniface (USB) Leads – Manitoba Association of School Business Officials (MASBO)
	<b>MERN Winter Forum 2016 “Manitoba Learning”</b> January 29, 2016	115 participants Videoconference/ Live Streamed Facilities – Frontier School Division (3

	Frontier School Division Board Office (live streamed and video archived event) Winnipeg Board Office; School District of Mystery Lake /Area 1 FSD Office and Area 4 Cranberry Portage FSD Office	sites) Leads – Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA), Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC)
	<b>MERN North 2016 Forum, “Northern Education”</b> March 11, 2016	102 participants Facilities – UCNThe Pas Campus Leads – University College of the North (UCN), Aboriginal Education Directorate (AED)
Luncheons/ Education Seminars		
	<b>MERN 2015 Awards Luncheon</b> June 19, 2015 Legislative Building	75 participants Location- Legislative Building Lead – Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning (EAL)
	<b>MERN 2015 Leadership Education Research Seminar</b> September 26, 2015 Manitoba Teachers’ Society 80 Participants	80 participants Location – Manitoba Teachers’ Society (MTS) Lead – University of Winnipeg (UW), Council of School Leaders of the MTS (COSL)
	<b>MERN Indigenous Education Research Seminar</b> <b>Bear Pit 1 – “Indigenous Perspectives in Education”</b> October 16, 2015 Manitoba Metis Federation 80 Participants	80 participants Facilities – Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Lead – MERN Indigenous Education Research Group (MIERG), MMF
	<b>MERN Indigenous Education Research Seminar</b> <b>Bear Pit 2 – “Indigenous Research Methods and Practices”</b> December 11, 2015	45 Participants Facilities – Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) Leads – MIERG, MFNERC



	<b>MERN Indigenous Education Research Seminar Bear Pit 3 – “Indigenous Rights and Natural Laws”</b> February 26, 2016	55 participants Facilities – Manitoba Teachers’ Society (MTS) Leads – MIERG, Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM)
Launches		
	<i>The MERN Journal, Volume 10, 2014-15</i>	Location – Frontier School Division, January 29, Lead – Manitoba Teachers’ Society (MTS)
Website		
Webmaster		Gerald Neufeld, BU Faculty (Retired)
Event Information	<i>Calendar of Events</i> for all partner activities Call for proposals, programs and abstracts posted	<a href="http://www.mern.ca">www.mern.ca</a>
Online Registration	Support for MERN Forums with online registration	
Archives	Online access to publications including MERN Journal, MERN Monograph Series I & II, MERN Occasional Paper Series, and MERN Highlights Archive of past MERN forum programs/abstracts, seminars and symposiums, MERN photo gallery, MERN Award recipients, etc.	.
Publications		
<i>MERN Monograph Series</i>	Issue 7 - pending	
<i>MERN Monograph Series II, No. 1</i>	MERN Monograph Series II, “Tipachimowin: Stories from the Winnipeg Education Centre Teacher Education Experience” by Helen Robinson-Settee	<a href="http://www.mern.ca/monographs/M2.1-Tipachimowin.pdf">http://www.mern.ca/monographs/M2.1-Tipachimowin.pdf</a> Launch – December 11, 2015

<i>The MERN Journal</i>	<b><i>The MERN Journal, Volume 10, 2014-15</i></b>	<a href="http://www.mern.ca/journal/Journal-V10.pdf">http://www.mern.ca/journal/Journal-V10.pdf</a>
	<b><i>The MERN Journal, Volume 11, Special Issue: Inquiry into Teaching and Learning</i></b>	<a href="http://www.mern.ca/journal/Journal-V11.pdf">http://www.mern.ca/journal/Journal-V11.pdf</a>
MERN Highlights	Electronic newsletter	Monthly
MERN <i>Researcher Profile</i>	Daniel Bérubé – USB	<a href="http://www.mern.ca/profiles/berube.pdf">http://www.mern.ca/profiles/berube.pdf</a> <i>Education Manitoba</i> publication discontinued in Spring 2015.
MERN E-Messages	Regular MERN emails to network about calls for presentations, forum registration information, invitations, event programs and publication releases.	Email is primary mechanism for network communication therefore it is important to maintain up to date contact information essential for network functioning.
MERN Editorial Board	Meets annually	As part of the MERN Deans Advisory Group meetings
<i>MERN Occasional Paper Series</i>	<b><i>MERN Occasional Paper Series, Leadership Education, No. 1</i></b> - “Thoughts about Tone, Educational Leadership, and Building Creative Climates in Our Schools” by Ken McCluskey	<a href="http://www.mern.ca/occ/occ-lead-01.pdf">http://www.mern.ca/occ/occ-lead-01.pdf</a> Launch – September 26, 2015
	<b><i>MERN Occasional Paper Series, Leadership Education, No. 2</i></b> – “System Leadership in Kindergarten – Grade 12 Public Schools in Manitoba: An Emergent Regenerative Education Leadership Model “ by Ken Klassen	<a href="http://www.mern.ca/occ/occ-lead-02.pdf">http://www.mern.ca/occ/occ-lead-02.pdf</a> Launch – November 20, 2015
	<b><i>MERN Occasional Paper Series, Indigenous Education, No. 2</i></b> - “Skannen Ko’wa: Attributing Principles of <i>Kashwenta</i> to Manitoba’s	<a href="http://www.mern.ca/occ/occ-2.pdf">http://www.mern.ca/occ/occ-2.pdf</a>

	Treaty Relationships” by Frank Deer	
Other		
	<b>MERN Indigenous Education Research Group (MIERG)</b>	2015-16 Members: Marlene Atleo, Laara Fitznor, Frank Deer, Kevin Lamoureux, Jacqueline Romanow, Brian Rice, Sherry Peden, Laura Sims, David Anderson, Amanda Simard, Sharon Parenteau, Helen Robinson-Settee, Olga McIvor, Rhonda McCorrison, Heather Hunter (chair).
	<b>MERN Teacher Education Research Group (MTERG)</b>	2015 -16 Members: Gary Babiuk, Paul Betts, Kathy Collis, Ian Donnelly, Gail Ruta Fontaine, Sarah Gazan, Lloyd Kornelson, Ralph Mason, Francine Morin, Sherry Perih, Dawn Sutherland, Carole Bilyk, Heather Hunter (chair).

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