


# 2018 Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service Recipients



## **Khang Nguyen, Public Service Commission – *Emerging Leader***

Khang is a Digital Communications Consultant at the Public Service Commission (PSC). He has built a reputation as a well-respected emerging leader in the PSC. As PSC's project lead for Taskroom, Khang demonstrated leadership throughout the project. Taskroom was a complex project with many moving pieces and many stakeholders. Khang was responsible for the project from inception to completion and modeled our values every step of the way. He understood Taskroom had to be a tool that allowed fellow government colleagues to find the information they needed easily and quickly; he remained focused on the client throughout the project. Khang lives our values by always being accountable for his actions. He is always willing to lend a hand, becoming the go-to guy for help with live-streaming. He is a strong member of the communications team, organizing monthly potlucks and bringing treats to celebrate others' achievements.

## **Brent Preston, Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety – *Emerging Leader***

As Manager of Health Standards, Brent has seamlessly amalgamated two significantly distinct units, Radiation Safety and Occupational Hygiene. He has supported and contributed to the development and implementation of improved statistical tools for more effective intelligence gathering and inspection methodology, helped procure much needed equipment for effective performance of officers during inspections, contributed to the completion of the reclassification of the Radiation Safety Officer positions, has been instrumental in the revamping of the provincial Radiation Health and Safety Committee and has overseen the introduction of emerging radiation technologies. He embraces challenges as opportunities and engages his colleagues at all levels with his calm, competent demeanor. His unit has learned to do more with less in support of the division and the ministry in meeting our objectives. While doing so, his team has grown closer and more effective in their quest for excellence.

## **Erin Layton, Legal Aid Commission – *Individual***

Erin Layton has been a legal aid lawyer for 17 years, 10 of those spent in Prince Albert and the last seven in La Ronge. Erin works diligently and ethically to ensure that the difficulties experienced by her clients are represented fairly in court. She does not exaggerate or diminish the experiences of her clients, she simply asks the court to deal fairly with those lived experiences. She has excellent client management skills and expertly explains the criminal justice and law processes to her clients in such a fashion that puts them at ease, despite significant language barriers. When difficult social or psychological client

situations arise, Erin goes well beyond what is expected of the average defence lawyer, by engaging directly with available social and psychiatric services to assist her clients do not fall through cracks or are forgotten. All of this she does with poise, respect, kindness, and an abundance of humility. Erin is an asset for justice in northern Saskatchewan.

#### **Kevin Mooney, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) – *Individual***

As the Director of the Employee Health and Safety Branch, Kevin oversaw the development and implementation of the Safety Management System and the Attendance Management System. As lead of the branch and key initiatives, Kevin successfully built support among executive and senior management teams by consistently demonstrating excellent subject matter expertise, by pursuing implementation of the systems through well laid out strategies, a tactful and understanding approach and perseverance when faced with challenges/obstacles. Through Kevin's leadership, a significant accomplishment in 2018 was SLGA being removed from WorkSafe Saskatchewan's priority employer program which targets employers with the highest injury rates in the province of Saskatchewan, in addition to achieving a record low number of injuries and reaching for the first time the Government of Saskatchewan's long-term goal of average sick leave usage of seven days per FTE. Kevin demonstrated unflinching integrity in his commitment to reducing injuries among his co-workers.

#### **Health System Restructuring Transition Team, Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA)**

The move to a single Health Authority was driven by a commitment to improve the efficiency of the health system, to reduce duplication of effort and, ultimately, to improve frontline patient care for people across the province. One of the first actions of the Transition Team was to determine the principles that would guide their work, which included a patient first approach; focus on quality and safety; open and transparent communication; collaboration and engagement; respect for people and culture; and evidence-based decision making. The team placed a premium on open, honest and transparent communications with all affected parties, engaged many in the development of the work and ensured their actions were embedded in the principles of effective change management. The work of the Transition Team has laid the foundation for the SHA to continue its transformational journey, including full implementation of all of the Advisory Panel's recommendations.

#### **Joint-Use School Early Learning Working Group Team, Ministry of Education**

In the fall of 2014, the Government of Saskatchewan announced plans to proceed with a P3 procurement model to build nine joint-use schools in Regina, Saskatoon, Warman and Martensville. Each of the nine joint-use schools would include a 90-space early learning and child care centre. An Early Learning Working Group, including representatives from the five school divisions and the ministry, was created. The group focused efforts on designing and implementing a new model for child care to be tested out in the nine new joint-use school sites. The approach taken to developing the model is working

to generate stronger linkages between child care, schools and the larger community so that children are well prepared and supported to learn and develop. The model is also designed to engage parents in their children's learning early to maintain relationships for young children as they move from child care to school. As a result, children get a good start and are ready to learn at every stage in their education.

The collaborative approach of the Early Learning Working Group was a different way of engaging partners in program development incorporating their contributions from design to implementation. The new model was implemented in the nine joint-use school child care centres in the fall of 2017.

### **Ready to Work, Tourism Careers Team – Tourism Saskatchewan**

Ready to Work (RTW) Tourism Careers Team is a career awareness, skills development and transition-to-employment program that assists individuals in finding long-term, rewarding careers in the tourism and hospitality sector. The program is delivered by the Saskatchewan Tourism Education Council (STEC), the industry education and training department of Tourism Saskatchewan. Ready to Work has provided training and work experience in more than 50 Saskatchewan communities including several First Nation Communities. The program provides a nurturing environment for people to acquire knowledge, develop skills, gain confidence and transition to a fulfilling career within the tourism sector and other sectors of the economy that employ tourism-related occupations and professions. Since its launch in 1994, Ready to Work has mentored more than 5,600 participants, achieving an average completion rate of over 85 per cent and an employment or returned to school rate of over 80 per cent.

### **Regina Bypass Project, Phase I Completion Team – Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure (MHI)**

The Regina Bypass is the largest transportation infrastructure project in Saskatchewan's history, and is also Saskatchewan's first highway project delivered as a private-public-partnership (P3). This delivery model has enabled construction far sooner than if it had been delivered through conventional means. Completion of Phase 1 of the Regina Bypass Project has already improved public safety by removing at-grade intersections along Highway 1 East, eliminating high-speed intersection collisions. Four fatal collisions occurred at intersections along Highway 1 East between 2003 and 2012, and all were preventable. Completion of the Regina Bypass will also reduce congestion and improve the efficient movement of traffic in the Regina region. Travel demand modeling estimates 21,000 vehicles per day will use the Regina Bypass by 2040. The MHI team continues to work as one team with all parties involved. The ability of the MHI team to work collaboratively with others has been crucial to the success of Phase 1 of the project. For example, this collaboration accelerated completion of one component of Phase I – the Pilot Butte Interchange – 20 months ahead of the original schedule. The substantial completion date for the project is October 31, 2019.