



# News Release

The Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities

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## Two Chief Executive Officers? Will it work?

Two candidates will accept Co-Directorship of Alberta's leading violence and bullying prevention programming with the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities. The new Directors will be named at the Society's *Becoming the Change We Want to See* conference at 9 am on June 2, 2006, at Barnett House in Edmonton. The change in leadership is a result of the upcoming retirement of the Society's 11-year Executive Director, Dr Vicki Mather.

The Board has taken an unusual step in naming Donna Blundell and Will Simpson as Co-Directors, who will take over September 1, 2006. In its 11 years of operation, the Society has practiced a consensus-based decision-making model. The only exception to this approach is the Society's Board of Directors which, under *The Alberta Societies Act*, is required to use a majority vote on motions. Because the Society promotes collaboration and peaceful conflict management, the Board felt that the Society had the appropriate culture to make this extraordinary leadership model work.

Donna Blundell is leaving her position as Director of the Grant McEwan College Foundation to contribute her extensive corporate and government relations expertise in fund development, relationship building, strategic planning, and financial and organizational management to the Society. "We are very lucky to have attracted Donna," claimed Society President Dick Baker. "Donna led a team at Grant McEwan that recently completed a campaign for \$20 million, exceeding their target of \$15 million, for a new Health Learning Centre on Grant McEwan's campus."

Will Simpson has been a Principal with Edmonton Public Schools for 18 years. "Will Simpson is well known among his colleagues for his team-building skills, modesty and child-centred educational practices", commented Baker, "Will's experience as a teacher, school administrator, communications consultant, university practicum associate, principal mentor, Universiade education manager and public speaker will ensure the Society has exceptional educational leadership."

Can an organization thrive with two leaders having equal authority. The Board of Directors is confident that the two new CEOs will succeed in expanding the programming and enhancing the Society's ability to support Alberta's children and youth.

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For more information please contact Dick Baker, President of the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities, at (780) 945-1407.

For more information about The Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities, please visit the website at [www.sacsc.ca](http://www.sacsc.ca).