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Lorraine Stewart, Chair of Parkland School Division

By Claire Buisseret

Lorraine Stewart is a Woman of Influence involved with numerous aspects of community. A Rotarian, school board Trustee, retired educator, board member for the Alberta College of Psychologists, and the list goes on. Lorraine is committed and passionate about improving her community in any way possible. Dedicated does not even begin to describe the care and attention Lorraine places on each of her roles, elected or volunteer. She gives each project, person, and task the attention it deserves and never does anything just halfway. Lorraine is an active volunteer to help those in her community, the province, the nation, and even across the globe.

Lorraine's mission in education, and her life, is to promote inclusivity. For some, inclusivity means doing the bare minimum to tolerate others with different perspectives, experiences, and abilities while Lorraine regards inclusion as valuing one another for those same reasons. Inclusiveness, inside of the classroom and in the community, is the key to promoting opportunity and understanding. Being an educator and Trustee entails caring for not only the student but also the family and community from which they come.

The best advice Lorraine can offer future educators, and the community as a whole, is to be kind and use a lot of patience. Act but don't react are the words that Lorraine lives by and encourages others to take into mind. To her, it is best to take the time to logically think about your actions and behaviour rather than reacting in the moment. Lorraine believes that all of your lived experiences are important because they help to shape your perspective which is necessary to enhance inclusivity and understanding. "Teaching is the best profession," but it requires a lot of flexibility and adaptability when



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it comes to different students' needs and situations. Such skills come from understanding perspectives brought forth by students, other educators, and one's own lived experiences. Inclusivity ultimately stems from understanding and that is why it has been her career-long goal.

As an educator of over 30 years, Lorraine believes that being active in schooling is important. Currently, as a Ward 2 Trustee in Parkland School Division she acts as a governor between the public and the school board looking to uphold both of their desires. No matter what, Lorraine believes that it is best to stay true to yourself, your beliefs, and what you think is best based on the information available to you. Lorraine is active in many committees, organizations, and volunteer positions. She is a part of the Victim Services Society in the Tri-Region, her church ministries, the Rotary Club of Stony Plain, and the College of Alberta Psychologists all while working as an elected official.

Much like the other 2022 Women of Influence, Lorraine is honoured to be recognized for her accomplishments and hard work but was humble stating that she “does what she does because she loves it.” Recognition is nice to receive, but Lorraine works hard because she cares so deeply about what she is involved in. We are privileged to have Lorraine working hard to promote the future of the next generation of our community.