

Chinook's Edge honours employees at annual staff recognition celebration

For Immediate Release, October 20, 2023: Chinook's Edge School Division acknowledged dozens of long-serving staff, welcomed 29 new teachers, and bid farewell to a record 70 retirees at its annual Celebrations event on October 19.

Co-hosted by the Board of Trustees and the Alberta Teachers' Association Local #17, the evening honoured all employee groups at every level across the division. It began with the induction of 20 new teachers into the Alberta Teachers' Association and ended with a tribute to 70 retirees, many of whom have spent their entire careers in Chinook's Edge.

"Our Board is very grateful to our staff and we are always pleased to honour them in this way," said Holly Bilton, Board Chair. "We want to thank our staff for moving the division forward and for always putting students first. No matter their role, each of our staff serve students and families extremely well."

The event provides an opportunity to recognize a large number of staff for their long service in Chinook's Edge. This year, the Board had the opportunity of applauding Helen Jackson, who has been an Educational Assistant in Sundre schools for 40 years!

"I started at the local Kindergarten in 1981, and then moved over to River Valley School once the program moved there," said Helen. "I've watched over two generations of people grow up since then! I love the job I'm doing and can still do it well, so I'm thrilled to stay. Just being around kids is a joy – I've supported a lot of different students with a lot of different disabilities, and it's incredibly rewarding to know you're making a difference for them."

"Plus I work in a beautiful school with staff who feel like family! I've had awesome admin teams who have provided such good guidance all the way through. There are strong and supportive people all through Chinook's Edge who really care about kids. I've loved the Support Staff Matter committee, for instance, and feel that the leaders in Division Office have implemented a lot of important protocols that are beneficial to everyone. People are working hard to make a positive difference in a child's life and I'm so glad to be part of it."

Fellow long-serving Chinook's Edge staff, Darrel Howden, who has served for 45 years as a custodian in Didsbury, was also celebrated at the event. Chinook's Edge issued a media release on Darrel's career a few years ago. A full list of ATA inductees, retirees and long-service award recipients is included with this media release.

"The people we pay tribute to at Celebrations have reached a career milestone with Chinook's Edge, and the annual event allows us to thank each one of them for their commitment," said Superintendent Kurt Sacher.

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MEDIA: for more information or to obtain photos of the event, please contact:
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