

2018 Trustee Candidate Research Project

The Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC) would like to share information about a new research project focused on school board trustees. Ryerson University is conducting a study about candidates who are seeking election to school boards in the upcoming Ontario Municipal & School Board Elections.

In 2014, almost 1500 candidates ran for the office of school board trustee across Ontario's four school systems. As we look forward to the October 2018 elections, OESC and Ryerson wish to better understand the demographic profile of trustee candidates and what motivates an individual to run for the office of school board trustee.

By and large, trustees are an understudied group. We anticipate the research will provide much-needed information the school board associations can use to promote the role of trustee, diversify the candidate pool and increase voter-turn out rates – all contributing to broader civic engagement in school board elections.

Ryerson hopes to survey as many trustee candidates as possible. Researchers are very interested in hearing from sitting trustees who are again running in 2018.

OESC has worked with Dr. Myer Siemiatycki, Dr. Michael McGregor, and Dr. Adrienne Davidson, of the Department of Politics & Public Administration at Ryerson University to undertake the study. Their objective is to develop a comprehensive portrait of who runs for school board trustee to help better understand school boards and local elections.

Research findings will be shared with the school board associations in 2019. Ryerson University will also share findings from the study at national research conferences and in academic publications.

How can you participate?

If you are again running for trustee in October 2018, we invite you to participate in the study. You have likely already been contacted via email to complete a survey online. If you wish to participate, you will be asked to provide demographic information and answer a small number of questions on matters such as your motivation for running. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Please note: Survey participation is optional and confidential. Ryerson will ensure the confidentiality of all participants in the research and will not share private information with anyone outside of the research team. All data collected and stored will comply with privacy legislation.

For more information please contact:

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