

# Lentz named outstanding principal

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A Thunder Bay principal has been recognized for innovation, leadership and creativity.

Darren Lentz of Kingsway Park/Hyde Park Public Schools is one of 40 principals honoured on the list of Canada's Outstanding Principals of 2017 by The Learning Partnership.

"This is a very well deserved honour for principal Lentz and for the entire Kingsway Park and Hyde Park community," Lakehead Public Schools education director Ian MacRae said Tuesday. "This award is a testament to his innovation, leadership and creativity in finding solutions and opportunities within the school community that he serves. We are extremely proud of this recognition for principal Lentz."

According to The Learning Partnership, Lentz's passion for sports and recreation has been a driving force in his educational career, which includes working in on-reserve First Nation schools in Northern Ontario and in Sioux Lookout, before moving to Thunder Bay.

A hands-on leader, Lentz draws on his experience to create a strong sense of community at Hyde Park and Kingsway Park public schools to support at-risk students, providing sensory rooms and building strategies to de-escalate behaviours. He is passionate about integrating First Nations learning, focusing on the Seven Grandfather teaching in assemblies, projects and ongoing classroom lessons.

Lentz seeks out relevant, authentic learning experiences for students to build self-esteem and community, developing partnerships to provide them with a wide variety of opportu-



LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PHOTO

**Kingsway Park/Hyde Park Public Schools principal Darren Lentz is one of 40 Canadian principals being honoured this year by The Learning Partnership.**

nities. He serves on the Minister's Principals Reference Group, and teaches the Native Language Instructor Program at Lakehead University as well as the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit additional qualification courses.

"I am honoured to be named as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals of 2017," Lentz said.

"To me, this award represents the many strengths of our outstanding team in this school community and within Lakehead Public Schools," he

added, sharing the credit for the honour. "I could not do what I do without vice-principal Shannon Jessiman MacArthur, the amazing staff at both schools, our engaged and involved parents, and, of course, our wonderful students at Hyde and Kingsway."

Lentz graduated from Lakehead University's outdoor recreation program in 1994 and received his bachelor of education degree two years later. He began his teaching career with Fort Hope First Nation before moving to Sioux Lookout to teach at Pelican Falls High School and then, Queen Elizabeth District High School. He then moved to Thunder Bay and served as vice-principal at Algonquin Avenue Public School and Ecole Gron Morgan.

Lentz has been the principal of Hyde Park and Kingsway Park schools since 2013.

Now celebrating its 13th year, The Learning Partnership's Canada's Outstanding Principals program recognizes the unique and vital contribution of principals in publicly funded schools.

The 40 principals, nominated by parents, colleagues, and community members, and chosen by a national selection committee this year, are being celebrated for demonstrating innovation, leadership and for employing creativity in finding solutions and opportunities within their school communities.

They will be awarded for their accomplishments at the annual Canada's Outstanding Principals gala on Feb. 28 at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel.

The Learning Partnership is a national charity dedicated to building stakeholder partnerships to support, promote and advance publicly funded education in Canada.