

Media Release - District 2 Principal Receives National Recognition

School District 2 is very pleased to announce that Mike Belong, Principal of Hillcrest School has been selected as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals by The Learning Partnership, a national not-for-profit organization that has championed public education in Canada since 1993.

"On behalf of all of the District 2 staff, I congratulate Mike Belong, Principal of Hillcrest School as being selected as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals! This is a very great honour for Mike, Hillcrest School and for our District." states Superintendent Karen Branscombe.

Mr. Belong has been Principal at Hillcrest School for the past 9 years. Mike is a natural leader and motivator of students and staff as evidenced by these comments from parents and staff: "he truly leaves an imprint in the lives he has touched".... "truly a great leader, I have learned so much from you".... and "he is an amazing man and an amazing principal "

Mike has been teaching in School District 2 since 1990 . Prior to this he earned his Bachelor of Physical Education and Bachelor of Education Degrees at U.N.B. Fredericton and received his Masters in Educational Administration at the University of Moncton. His teaching career commenced at Riverview High School teaching physical education and then he moved on to Sunny Brae Middle School and Harrison Trimble High School where he worked in the capacity as both a physical education teacher as well as a behaviour adjustment teacher. The last nine years at Hillcrest has been as the school Principal preceded by two years as Vice Principal.

Mike's wife Jennifer is an electrical engineer with Aliant and they have three children: Alyssa who is sixteen years old and attends Bernice MacNaughton, Ryan 14 and Melanie 11 who attend Bessborough School.

Mike is one of 32 exceptional leaders in education from across the country have been chosen as *Canada's Outstanding Principals™* for 2010. The award is presented to principals who have made a measurable difference in the lives of their students and their own local communities. They help ensure that Canada's young people continue to receive a quality world-class education.

"Strong leadership is what makes Canada's education system one of the finest in the world," says Veronica Lacey, President & CEO of The Learning Partnership. "Our principals set the tone for a school and their communities and children across the country are benefitting from the work of these remarkable men and women."