

Denise Andre Recipient: Eleanor Newman Award for Outstanding Service to EOSDN



Denise Andre has contributed to education in Eastern Ontario for over 40 years, marked by a transition from local board leadership to provincial-level systemic support that focuses heavily on innovation, mental health, and collaborative professional development. She has served the Eastern region, its students, staff, and educators with distinction.

Eastern Ontario Leadership and Service

Denise served the Ottawa Catholic School Board for over 35 years, culminating in her role as **Director of Education** (2015–2020). In her tenure there, she cultivated Deep Learning Leadership, Digital Innovation, Equity and Inclusion, and a Strategic Vision that set direction for the school board under three pillars: *Be Community, Be Well, and Be Innovative*. She also supported the Eastern Ontario Staff Development Network as a Supervisory Officer Qualification facilitator, bringing her senior leadership experience to aspiring superintendents.

Denise took on the role of **Executive Director** for EOSDN in 2020. In this capacity, she led a collaborative network of 13 Eastern Ontario school boards and the Queen's University Faculty of Education in order to share resources and best practices. She has been instrumental in facilitating large-scale professional development initiatives that provide educators with access to provincial experts and peer-to-peer mentorship. Her work focuses on creating "economies of scale" for school boards, ensuring that small and large boards alike have access to high-quality leadership training as well as innovative approaches to staff retention and advocacy. One example of this work can be found in her role in supporting the Queen's French as a Second Language Multi-Session program, a program which supports French speaking aspiring educators in becoming Ontario Certified Teachers.

In her current role as Mentally Healthy Systems and Schools Team Lead and Implementation Coach for School Mental Health Ontario, she provides coaching and implementation support to school boards across Ontario. She works directly with Mental Health Leadership teams to bridge the gap between provincial policy and classroom practice, focusing on sustainable culture shifts within school boards. Leveraging her previous role as Chair of the **EdCan Network**, she has been a vocal advocate for the "Well at Work" movement, emphasizing that student well-being is inextricably linked to staff well-being.

Denise Andre's leadership has enriched and enlivened the EOSD Network for years, marked by an attention to collaboration, listening, thoughtful planning, and collegiality. We celebrate and are grateful for her achievements, which she has graciously shared with us in Eastern Ontario.