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## **Borden student chosen for Provincial Youth Council**

Jade Matte, a Grade 11 student at Borden School, has been selected as a member of the inaugural Provincial Youth Council for the 2019/20 school year.

Jade is an active and committed student in Borden School, a K-12 school with an enrolment of 99 students. She says growing up in Borden is a “good starting place”, with many opportunities to get involved and serve the school and community. She is one of three SRC presidents at the school. She helps coach the Junior Girls volleyball team. She actively volunteers in her community at the various annual events in the village.

The Ministry of Education describes the Youth Council as an opportunity for students to “address meaningful issues directly with the Minister of Education... while also providing guidance on how to better engage students.”

Twelve students from around the province were chosen to participate in the Youth Council. Students were nominated to be part of the Youth Council through their school divisions, with the Ministry of Education making the final selections. The Youth Council participants all attend different school divisions in the province.

The Youth Council met for the first time in mid-October in Warman. The meeting included the Minister of Education and Ministry officials. “It’s kind of new,” Jade said. “It’s not a concept that we’ve ever been offered before: having somebody in a position like that ask you what you think.”

Jade added that she believes that students should have the opportunity to talk about their experience in school. “I was honoured to be part of that and share my opinions,” she said. “My small impact can make a big

impact on the province.” She observed that the Youth Council members are focused on the same goal: improving education and helping students be prepared for life after high school.

The Youth Council will meet throughout the upcoming year. Some of their meetings may be online, as the students are from around the province and have busy schedules.

In addition to the Provincial Youth Council, Jade is also participating in a Student Voice Focus Group with Prairie Spirit School Division. This student-led work will help guide the school division in designing effective learning environments for students.



Jade Matte



The Provincial Youth Council at its first meeting. Jade Matte is third from the right (front row). Gord Wyant, Minister of Education is on the far left (back row), while Rob Currie, Deputy Minister of Education, is on the far right (back row).