

“Schools work best as a local affair - Peter Gumbel

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

I believe that most educators would agree that the primary purpose of schools is to help young people develop the skills of citizenship; a close second would be to develop the skills needed to find and maintain employment. Each category would likely include a range of skills, and levels within skills, such as communication, mathematics, technological literacy, personal management skills and others. From my perspective, these skills fall into the “must know” category and have priority in any education system; they should be a first call against the public dollar.

Where can we find such a list? Good question. I’ve looked far and wide without success so far. I’m not saying such a list does not exist but I certainly haven’t found it; missing from the lists I found, was a linkage or relevance to the “citizen” role. It is likely that we will have to create one.

We could take an existing list and poll the community to identify skills needed or we could bring together some people and, through a “brainstorming” process draw a list from the group; both approaches have been used successfully. Whatever the approach, the final list would be used as a basis for curriculum development and assessment. Such a list could also be used for tracking progress, determining performance levels and even part of a student’s transcript.

Both curriculum development and assessment are important components, but I’ll leave them for another column.

AWARD

- **Congratulations** to Alice Taylor for her award as a 2016 Senior Islander of the Year based on nominations from communities across the Island. Alice is the retired head of the Early Childhood Department at Holland College, founding member of the Early Childhood Development Association of PEI, leader in the field of child development, and Director of Education 20/20
- **The 2017 Award of Excellence** this year will focus on the work of educational partners other than schools. Make sure that educational plans for your community are put forward.
- **A presentation** on the importance of social & emotional learning, and its links to individual and community well-being is on the short version of our to-do list.
- **Beyond Measure**, a film about school innovation, was “the best one yet” according to one participant.
- **The Fear Factor** is often mentioned as a major reason for the reluctance of educators to adopt innovation in their schools. Readers can find a paper on the issue on the website of the Council of Ministers of Education Canada

Don Glendenning, Editor

Education 20/20 Inc.

101 Kent St., PO Box 624 / 101, rue Kent, B.P. 624
Charlottetown, PEI / Charlottetown (Î.-P.-É.) C1A 1M0

Tel./Tél. : 902-892-2060

Email/Courriel : pei@education2020.ca

www.education2020.ca