

Decision 2008 – October 14th Election

The CSBA sent an Election Survey to federal political parties about their position on key CSBA priorities affected by federal policy on Monday September 8th. The right column are the survey questions.

The CSBA will publish our perspective on those issues as well as report on the survey responses of the parties.

What the CSBA asked of the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada (INAC)

The following are key points taken from correspondence from past CSBA President Marcus Tabachnick about the federal role in aboriginal education. (*letter dated May 23rd 2008 to the Prime Minister and the INAC Minister.*)

He said “Aboriginal students are the fastest growing population in the public system. Although many continue to live on reserves and attend schools governed by the reserve system, many also choose the provincial public system. Most enter the system with achievement levels significantly behind so-called mainstream students.”

He reminded the Prime Minister that the Council of Ministers of Education and the CSBA have each made closing this achievement gap a priority and offered to work with the federal government in finding ways to close this achievement gap experienced by students under federal jurisdiction. He also suggested that the federal government “use the recommendations of its Auditor General as we find they represent an objective assessment of the situation.”

Some specific Auditor General recommendations include:

- INAC developing and using performance measures to improve. Best practices exist in abundance in the provinces; CSBA member provincial associations and, we are certain, provincial education ministries, can share what we know.
- INAC producing annual progress reports: School boards report more than annually on numerous measures. There are a vast number of examples that CSBA members and, again, provincial education ministries can share.
- INAC implementing mechanisms for dispute resolution and funding agreements: It is disappointing that this situation remains unresolved.
- Properly fund effective support to students.
- Improve teacher training for teachers sent to reserve schools.

The government has not yet responded to our concerns. President Johnson has committed to working with all levels of government to find ways of closing the achievement gap.

Survey to Federal Political Parties

Education for First Nations Students

Data shows an unacceptable gap between First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and other students in Canada in school readiness, grade achievement and graduation rates. What will your party do to turn this around?

Immigrant and Refugee Support

The federal government has committed to increasing immigration targets. What kind of supports do you see your party providing to immigrant and refugee children in schools and their families to increase their success in schools?

Copyright – Access

Would your party ensure that children in schools have the right to download Internet materials that were intended to be freely available?

GST on School Board purchases

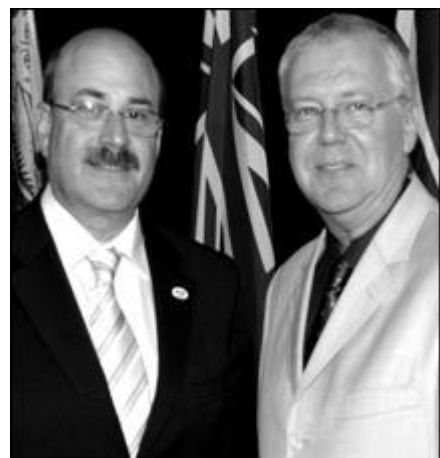
Do you support an end to charging GST on purchases made by school boards?

“An active democracy builds a great society.

Please listen carefully to what your local candidates and their parties are saying.

And please vote.”

Rick Johnson



Past CSBA President Marcus Tabachnick (2007-2008) and current CSBA President Rick Johnson. Congress 2008