



President's Bulletin

Canadian School Boards Association / L'Association canadienne des commissions/conseils scolaires

February
2019

Message from the President

Since becoming president last July, there has been a lot of activity at the Canadian School Boards' Association. In September the CSBA Board of Directors met in St. John's, hosted by the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association. Most



recently we met in Vancouver, hosted by the British Columbia School Trustees Association.

A national search for an Executive Director was undertaken, and we are very pleased to welcome Nancy Pynch-Worthylake to take on operation of the Association. Many of you will remember Nancy from her work in Nova Scotia, most recently with the Nova Scotia School Boards Association. Nancy has extensive experience, both academic and professional, in governance and education. We look forward to working with her to grow the association and advance the work in support of our Provincial members.

The fall flew by with a number of school board elections, quickly moving into the holiday season. The level of provincial government interest in governing school boards has picked up in several provinces, encouraging trustees everywhere to engage with their communities. The concerns surrounding the erosion of democratic voice in public education spans provincial borders and languages. ***Any reduction of democratic representation in the governance of public education must be a concern to all Canadians, regardless of whether their first language is French or English, and whether or not they have school-aged children.***

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the right of minority language parents to govern the education of their children. However, we should all be concerned when majority French and English parents are losing their right to have a local democratic voice in the education of their children.

So how do we tackle this? While the answer is not simple, the approach is – we tackle it together. Trustees from all provinces with governing school boards need to work together to ensure the public, municipal and provincial governments, understand the roles and responsibilities we all play. CSBA on a national level will continue to advocate for democratically elected governing school boards, but we need your help on the ground.

The CSBA continues to focus on Indigenous Education through committee work. The newsletter features a committee update, but I want to take a moment to thank and recognize the work of Darren McKee on this committee, and welcome new members Rusty Hick and Sean Monteith from Ontario, Josh Watt, Gordon Swan, and Janice Ciavaglia from the Assembly of First Nations.

And of course, planning is well underway for the 2019 National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress in Toronto, Ontario July 4th-7th, hosted by the Ontario Public School Boards Association. Over the years the combination of the Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education and the Congress has proven to be very successful, and I recommend you register for both. The professional development, networking and presentations are second to none! Registration will open soon.

Over the coming months the CSBA will renew our strategic plan. We will be sharing ways for members to give us feedback, send us ideas, and let us know what your priorities are. I hope to hear from you!

Yours in education,



Mot de la présidente

L'Association canadienne des commissions/conseils scolaires fourmille d'activité depuis que j'ai assumé la présidence en juillet dernier. La Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association s'est fait l'hôte de la réunion du seil d'administration de

conseil d'administration de l'ACCS à St. John's en septembre et plus récemment, la British Columbia School Trustees Association nous a accueilli à Vancouver.

Suite à une recherche de candidats d'un bout à l'autre du pays pour combler le poste de direction générale, nous sommes réjouis de souhaiter la bienvenue à Nancy Pynch-Worthylake qui assume le fonctionnement de l'Association. Plusieurs d'entre vous connaissez Nancy pour son travail en Nouvelle-Écosse, tout récemment auprès de la Nova Scotia School Boards Association. Nancy a acquis une vaste expérience, universitaire et professionnelle, dans les domaines de la gouvernance et de l'éducation. Nous avons hâte de travailler avec elle en vue de consolider notre Association et de faire avancer les travaux à l'appui de nos membres provinciaux.

Passé en un coup de vent, l'automne a vu de nombreuses élections des commissions/conseils scolaires, pour ensuite faire place à la saison des Fêtes. Le niveau d'intérêt des gouvernements provinciaux à l'égard des conseils d'établissement s'est intensifié dans plusieurs provinces, les commissaires scolaires d'un peu partout se voyant encouragés à s'engager dans leurs collectivités. Les préoccupations liées à l'érosion de l'expression démocratique dans l'enseignement public dépassent les frontières provinciales et les groupes linguistiques. **Toute diminution de la représentation démocratique dans la gouvernance de l'éducation publique doit préoccuper tous les Canadiens, que leur langue maternelle soit le français ou l'anglais et qu'ils aient ou non des enfants d'âge scolaire.** La Charte canadienne des droits et libertés garantit le droit des parents de communautés linguistiques minoritaires de gouverner l'éducation de leurs enfants. Or, nous devrions tous être inquiets lorsque les parents de communautés majoritaires francophones et anglophones perdent leur droit

d'exercer une voix démocratique locale en matière de l'éducation de leurs enfants.

Comment s'attaquer à ce problème? Si la réponse n'est pas simple, l'approche l'est : nous l'attaquons ensemble. Les commissaires scolaires de toutes les provinces dotées de conseils d'établissement doivent travailler ensemble pour veiller à ce que le public et les gouvernements municipaux et provinciaux comprennent les rôles et les responsabilités dont nous sommes investis. À l'échelle nationale, l'ACCS continuera de plaider en faveur des commissions scolaires élues démocratiquement, mais nous avons besoin de votre aide sur le terrain.

L'ACCS continue de se consacrer à l'éducation des Autochtones par voie de son travail en comité. Bien que le bulletin renferme une mise à jour du comité, je souhaite remercier Darren McKee et reconnaître son travail au sein de ce comité, et souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres Rusty Hick et Sean Monteith de l'Ontario, ainsi qu'à Josh Watt, Gordon Swan et Janice Ciavaglia de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations.

Bien sûr, la planification du Rassemblement national des conseillers scolaires sur l'éducation des Autochtones et du Congrès 2019 de l'ACCS à Toronto (Ontario) du 4 au 7 juillet et dont l'hôte sera l'Association des conseils scolaires publics de l'Ontario, est bien avancée. Au fil des ans, la combinaison du Rassemblement national des conseillers scolaires sur l'éducation des Autochtones et du Congrès s'est avérée très fructueuse et je vous recommande de vous inscrire aux deux activités. Le perfectionnement professionnel, le réseautage et les présentations sont inégalés! Les inscriptions débiteront bientôt.

Au cours des prochains mois, l'ACCS renouvellera son plan stratégique. Nous informerons les membres à savoir comment nous communiquer leurs commentaires, leurs idées et leurs priorités. Nous espérons avoir de vos nouvelles!

Vos partenaires en éducation,

National Advocacy Strategy Update

At the CSBA Board of Directors meeting in September and at the most recent meeting in Vancouver, a national advisory strategy was discussed. With the current climate in some provinces, the need for a united voice is greater than ever. Understanding that each province is handling their advocacy and communications work in their own unique way, the CSBA has set out to support these efforts with consistent, clear messaging.

With input from communications staff across the country, a strategy has been developed to direct the work of CSBA and support the work of the provinces. A tool-kit has been produced with materials such as key messages and graphics to ensure a consistent message is shared across the country – that democratically elected governing school boards are essential to communities and the health of a public school system. These materials will be available to the provincial associations to use as they deem appropriate. We understand every province has a unique set of circumstances, but we can all agree that any promotion of democratically elected governing school boards helps to educate people on the roles and responsibilities of trustees and the value communities would lose were they not to have this representation. The CSBA has been using the hashtags **#LocalChoicesLocalVoices** which you may have already seen used in Manitoba to support the role of governing school boards, and **#SchoolBoardsMatter** to promote the important local representation school boards provide. School Board Members are encouraged to use these phrases and hashtags when appropriate, to reinforce the value of local representation.

This strategy will continue to evolve and is considered a “living document” so we can be both proactive and reactive depending on developments from province to province. The main purpose of the strategy and the materials is to support provinces in engaging publics and sharing a common voice.

We encourage everyone to visit the CSBA website and check out the “Why school boards matter” page to learn more about the work we are doing, and to see some of the materials produced. The main call to action for all school board members and trustees across Canada is to get out there and speak to your community. Talk to them about your role, and use it as an opportunity to hear about their concerns.

CSBA Strategic Plan Update

The CSBA Board of Directors worked with our Executive Director at the Vancouver meeting to establish a strategic plan timeline for 2019. During the months of February and March, the CSBA will be reaching out to trustees across the country for their feedback to help inform goals and priorities for the new strategic plan.

When the information is collected, a draft strategic plan that truly reflects the needs of the membership will be presented to the Board of Directors and shared with members at the CSBA Congress in July.

This is an exciting, and important, process for the Association. We look forward to working with the provinces and receiving member feedback! Details on the process for input will be distributed through provincial associations to the members.

Provincial AGMs

Manitoba School Boards Association – March 14 & 15, 2019

British Columbia School Trustees Association – April 25-27, 2019

New Brunswick – May 10 & 11, 2019

Quebec English School Boards Association – May 23-25, 2019

Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec – May 31, 2019

Alberta School Boards Association – June 3 & 4, 2019

Ontario Public School Boards Association – July 5 & 6, 2019 (concurrent with CSBA congress)

Saskatchewan School Boards Association – November 18 & 19, 2019

Did you know..?

Changes to the Canadian Income Tax Act came into effect for the 2019 tax year, and will affect Trustees and Commissioners across Canada as the non-taxable portion of our honoraria is now 100% taxable.

The CSBA did reach out to Federal Finance Minister Morneau about the negative impact this change will have on trustees, however the changes have still taken place.

Considering trustees in most provinces will see a reduction in their honorariums, it is important for trustees to know the details for their own personal planning purposes.

Visit www.canada.ca for more information.

CSBA Board of Directors

Laurie French, President
Goronwy Price, Vice President

Brian Shortall, NLSBA
Bob Fowler, NBDEC
Stacey Brown, NBDEC
Alain Fortier, FCSQ
Christiane Barbe, FCSQ
Dan Lamoureux, QESBA
Russell Copeman, QESBA
Cathy Abraham, OPSBA
Rusty Hick, OPSBA
Alan Campbell, MSBA
Josh Watt, MSBA
Shawn Davidson, SSBA
Darren McKee, SSBA
Lorrie Jess, ASBA
Dr. Vivian Abboud, ASBA
Gordon Swan, BCSTA



Planning is well underway for the 2019 National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress, hosted by the Ontario Public School Boards Association. The conferences will be held at the lovely Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in downtown Toronto.

Here is a snapshot of the fantastic professional development line up:

National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education

Schedule:

Wednesday, July 3: 6:00pm – 9:30pm

Thursday, July 4: 8:00am – 4:00pm (Sunrise ceremony to start the day!)

Keynote speakers: National Chief Perry Bellegard, Kevin Lamoureux, and Malcolm Saulis

Plenary session topics: Student panel, Decolonizing our schools, and School district presentations.

Fees:

Early Bird (before June 14, 2019) - \$450

Regular (after June 14, 2019) - \$525

National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education & CSBA 2019 Congress

July 3 – 6, 2019

Toronto, ON

CSBA Congress

Schedule:

Thursday, July 4 – Evening reception

Friday, July 5 – Speakers and sessions (day-long) *evening dinner cruise on the harbour (optional)

Saturday, July 6 – Speakers and banquet

Keynote speakers: Dr. Gabor Maté, and Brian Woodland

Plenary session topics: Roles and importance of student trustees, National advocacy for local democracy, and Local board autonomy vs collective agreements.

Fees:

Early Bird (before June 14, 2019) - \$850

Regular (after June 14, 2019) - \$950

Registering for both the National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education AND the CSBA Congress?

Fees:

Early Bird (before June 14, 2019) - \$1150

Regular (after June 14, 2019) - \$1300

Getting to Know the Board

In each issue we will interview a member of the CSBA Board of Directors. **First up, President Laurie French!**

School Board: Limestone District School Board, Ontario

Hometown: Greater Napanee

Number of Years/Terms as a Trustee: 19 years, 6th consecutive term

Q: Why did you first choose to run for school board?

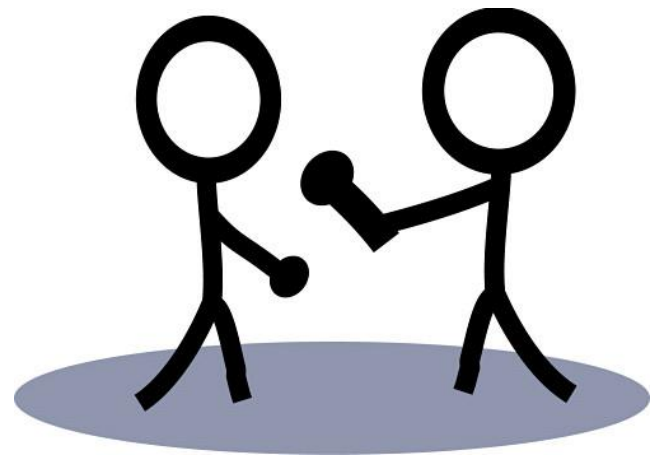
A: I got involved in parent council when my daughter started kindergarten, and by the time my son started, I was encouraged to run for office. I've gotten progressively involved in public education governance since then, taking on leadership roles in my board, I am past-President of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, and now as President of CSBA.

Q: What do you do in your down time?

A: I love to travel, and garden when I'm not away from home!

Q: What do you see as a critical issue in public education?

A: There are so many important areas to achieve student success, but I would say our most complex is Indigenous Education so that there is true equity of opportunity for all Canadian children, and this necessitates advancing the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We have so far to go to educate Canadians on our true history and the impacts of colonialism, and my hope is that through education, we can contribute to this long-term commitment.



Q: What book are you reading right now?

A: Being Mortal, by Atul Gawande

Q: What is your vision for national collaboration to support the role of governing school boards?

A: My vision is a board with full representation of all points in the country through democratically elected school board trustees working on behalf of their communities. We have work to do to firmly establish CSBA as the credible voice on the national stage in the absence of a federal education mandate, in service of our provincial school board associations.

About This Bulletin

The CSBA is always eager to connect with member associations, boards and individuals. We will produce the President's Bulletin after our Board of Director meetings to provide updates on the work and progress being made on behalf of our members.

We are also going to profile members of the Board of Directors to recognize and thank them for their contributions.

If you read about something in this bulletin and would like more information, contact your provincial representative and have a chat! Visit www.cdnsba.org for a list of our Board of Directors and for more information on **your** association.

CSBA Indigenous Education Committee Update

The CSBA Indigenous Education Committee has been meeting with leadership provided by Darren McKee and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association. The committee most recently met in Vancouver during the CSBA meetings.

Across the country at the regional level discussions are ongoing regarding funding allocations for First Nations students. A significant item related to funding is fostering relations and communications between the public and First Nations education systems in regards to federal government commitments to equalize funding. Through committee discussion with the Assembly of First Nations, different ways in which the CSBA can support funding relationships and negotiations were identified. Concerns around funding for First Nations students range from preferring funds to go from the federal government to the First Nations, to reciprocal funding and education agreements at the national and local levels.

The Assembly of First Nations shared that a mutual accountability task team was formed with federal government some months ago, however the Assembly withdrew due to differences of perspectives on accountability indicators. The Assembly of First Nations would like to reconvene discussions between the National Indian Education Council and public organizations such as CSBA to develop a shared framework on accountability.

The committee offers members an opportunity to discuss Indigenous education in the different provinces, and how everyone can learn from and support each other, including the CSBA. The committee discussed CSBA providing support or assistance by identifying resources in place for negotiation and conclusion of agreements between First Nations and public school boards across the country. It was emphasized at the meeting that there should be less reliance on provincial rules and regulations and, greater emphasis on First Nations independence and jurisdiction, lest there be litigation involved with moving the First Nations education agenda forward.

The CSBA, the Committee and the Assembly of First Nations will continue to work together on issues addressed at the committee level in support of provincial members.

Indigenous Education Resources

Mapping out territories, language and treaties

This resource, as the disclaimer says, is a continuing work in progress mapping out territories, languages and treaties. On this website you are able to click on an area and find out about related treaties and Indigenous languages. They have also developed a teacher's guide. Check it out online at: <https://native-land.ca/>

Canadian Geographic

This is a well-organized site that is easy to navigate and is available in both English and French. There is much information on this site and I would encourage you to explore and read this resource online at:

<https://indigenouspeoplesatlasofcanada.ca>

Canadian Encyclopedia

The online Canadian Encyclopedia, funded by the Government of Canada, has a specific site/section on Indigenous Peoples that includes interactive resources for teachers and others. It can be accessed online at:

<https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/collection/aboriginal-peoples/> or
<https://encyclopediecanadienne.ca/fr/collection/les-peuples-autochtones>