



The last few months have been very busy for CSBA, and I am very proud of the work we are all doing collectively to support public education across the country.

A large focus for the CSBA has been national support and advocacy for governing school boards.

The relationships between

governing school boards and provincial governments vary across the country, and we have been hearing from members and education partners in different provinces about their experiences. Most recently we heard from Paul Wozney, President of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, and Adam Davies, a former school board member in Nova Scotia. They lent us their voices for presentations I've delivered to share experiences in public education since school boards were dissolved. They have major concerns about transparency, access to information, and the opportunity for community input. But the short story is, public education has not improved since governing boards were dissolved.

In May, members of the CSBA Board of Directors met in Ottawa and combined our meetings with time spent at Parliament Hill. We met with multiple Members of Parliament and Senators to discuss public education and democratic representation. Federal government links to education through their support and governance of various programs and initiatives, links to our shared communities and constituents, and commitment to strong democracy. While the delivery of education sits with the provincial government, federal government should, and does, have an interest. We were happy with these meetings and provided information on public education and the role of governing school boards. These messages on the importance of democratic representation in the administration of public education need to be consistent, and delivered to multiple audiences across the country, particularly with those portfolios most closely linked to education (youth, health, democratic institutions, and Indigenous affairs).

While it's important to connect with politicians and senior government staff, the importance of connecting with our communities cannot be overlooked.

The CSBA continues to encourage school board trustees to meet with education and community partners to discuss how we can work together to best support students and highlight the positive contributions of school boards. We firmly believe there is a role for all of us to play in advocating for public education and supporting students.

Planning is well underway for the 2019 National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress in Toronto. Our hosts at the Ontario Public School Boards Association have been busy planning an exciting program for us, and we look forward to visiting Toronto for the conference. We have some wonderful keynote speakers lined up, including National Chief Perry Bellegarde at the Gathering, and Dr. Gabor Maté at the Congress. Please visit our website for the latest information and links to registration. This conference is an important time to come together to learn from field experts and our peers on issues related to education and governance.

During our May meeting, Dr. Paulette Tremblay, CEO, Assembly of First Nations provided an overview of the structure and the work of her organization. Dr. Tremblay reiterated the importance of public education and the need for ongoing support throughout Canada. We have advocated for three bills that will promote and protect Indigenous languages. We have also advocated with respect to national funding of supports for new Canadians attending our schools.

At the end of May I was pleased to attend the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec Annual General Meeting. I had the opportunity to speak about the work of CSBA, the importance of democratic community representation in public education, and the current climate in each province. I was joined by National School Boards Association Executive Director and CEO, Tom Gentzel who also spoke to the group. It was a fantastic gathering, and I thank the FCSQ for the invitation to attend and present.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Gathering and Congress in Toronto. Register before June 14 to take advantage of the Early Bird Fees! There is a lot to talk about, and I know that we can accomplish great things in support of students when we come together.

Yours in education,

Laurie French

CSBA Advocacy Day

On May 5 and 6 members of the CSBA Board of Directors met with Members of Parliament, Senators, and senior government staff. The meetings were both productive and informative, with a focus on public education and local governance. We had two days filled with meetings, and would like to thank the following offices for meeting with us:

- Minister Ralph Goodale, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
- Kevin Waugh, MP
- Michael McLeod, MP
- Marilyn Gladue, MP
- Mark Gerretsen, MP
- Matt Jeneroux, MP
- Darrell Samson, MP
- Mike Bossio, MP
- Gabriel Ste-Marie, MP
- Monique Pauzé, MP
- Sheri Benson, MP, NDP Deputy Leader
- Mike Lake, MP
- Senator Jean-Guy Dagenais
- Jessica Hayden, Director of Policy, Indigenous Services
- Paul Pelletier, Director General, Indigenous Services
- Michel Picard, Député de Montarville et Président du caucus du Québec
- Joël Lightbound, Député de Louis-Hébert et Secrétaire parlementaire du ministre de Finances
- Matthew Hill, Policy Advisory, Democratic Institutions
- Stephanie Keron, Stakeholder Relations, Office of the Leader of the Official Opposition

We would also like to thank the trustees and CSBA board members who helped to facilitate the meetings. Trustees across the country are encouraged to meet with their Members of Parliament to discuss the important role of governing school boards, and the democratic right of all Canadians to local representation in public education.



CSBA members meet with MP Darrell Samson, a former educator and Superintendent of Schools



CSBA members meet with MP Mike Bossio

National Advocacy Strategy Update

The Advocacy Committee continues to meet and discuss tools and initiatives created by the CSBA to support trustees, provincial associations, and to advocate for governing school boards. It is essential that CSBA focuses on what is most useful for our members and ultimately, public education and students. Recently we have heard from Nova Scotians who are expressing their concerns over the lack of transparency and community connection in education. A poignant example provided by the President of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union is the growing number of parents and guardians taking education policy related concerns directly to teachers because they no longer have a community advocate. This is adding great stress to what should be a relationship focused on the success of students.

Planning for what became known as “Advocacy Day” on Parliament Hill required collaboration and support from the members of the Advocacy Committee. Coordinating meetings with senior government officials resulted in multiple meetings and opportunities to discuss public education and local governance.

We continue to find opportunities to support provincial associations and members in their local advocacy work. Regardless of the approach, the key messages remain the same: governing school boards provide community voice at a policy and governance level in public education, and this ultimately support students.

Schools belong to communities, and governing school boards are the direct connection between the two. In your conversations with members of the public, politicians, and education partners, we encourage you to discuss local initiatives and how they have impacted student success. #LocalVoicesLocalChoices #SchoolBoardsMatter

Association & Education Partner AGMs

Representatives from CSBA have been attending annual provincial association and education partner events around the country. Participation has ranged from attending as a special guest, to delivering presentations. Members of the CSBA Executive are always honoured to be invited to these events. Most recently CSBA has been represented at the following events:

Manitoba School Boards Association – March 14 & 15, 2019

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

Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec – May 31, 2019

Upcoming AGMs

Public Schools of Saskatchewan – June 6 & 7, 2019

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

Saskatchewan School Boards Association – November 18 & 19, 2019



National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education & CSBA 2019 Congress

July 3 – 6, 2019

Toronto, ON

Registration is open 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 lineup:

National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education

Wednesday, July 3: 6:00pm – 9:30pm

Thursday, July 4: 8:00am – 4:00pm

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

CSBA Congress

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

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.

Getting to Know the CSBA Board of Directors

In each issue of the President's Bulletin we will interview a member of the CSBA Board of Directors.



Goronwy Price, CSBA Vice President

Association: President, Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association

Hometown: Happy-Valley/Goose Bay, Labrador

Number of Years/Terms as a Trustee: 15 years

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

A: While my three daughters were younger, I spent many years on various school councils. As a result of this valuable experience and my passion for improvement, I decided to run for the Labrador School in 2004.

Q: What do you do in your down time?

A: I love the outdoors which for me means canoeing, kayaking, kite boarding and the latest passion flying my drone and collecting unbelievable video's.

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

A: Replacing seasoned leadership is critical as the population ages and professionals in our system are retiring in larger and larger numbers. This is further exacerbated by the increasing complexities in the students' lives that make up our school communities.

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

A: My vision would include all regions of the country coming together in open dialog on issues that truly make a difference for students in all our classrooms. If this is achieved then governing school boards will have a natural support in all areas of the country!

Q: What was the last book you read?

A: The Lore of Nutrition by Tim Noakes & Marika Sboros "Challenging conventional dietary beliefs"

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
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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
Mike Roberts, BCSTA

CSBA Indigenous Education Committee Update

The Indigenous Education Committee continues to bring together members from different provinces, as well as the Assembly of First Nations, to discuss issues related to Indigenous education in public education.

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association updated the Committee on recent dialogue with their provincial Minister of Education regarding the establishment of an accountability framework for Indigenous education and a user-friendly statistical framework. The British Columbia School Trustees Association has also had similar conversations with their provincial department of education. All members agreed to the importance of sharing practices and outcomes in their provinces once data is available. This speaks to the importance of collaboration across the country to support all students in all schools. We will continue to work on identifying and measuring data within the context of accountability frameworks to help provide resources for school boards nation-wide.

The Committee discussed Local Education Agreements in different provinces. A traditional bilateral approach to the agreements has begun to shift towards a multilateral approach and new developments and relationships are occurring. An exciting example shared by the Ontario Public School Boards Association is the development and emergence of reciprocal tuition agreements with First Nations where public education per student funding flows both ways. SSBA also highlighted examples of conferment of autonomy to First Nations for control of schools in the public education system where high or exclusive enrolment is First Nations students.

Assembly of First Nations

The Assembly of First Nations is an advocacy organization that is working to improve the lives of First Nations across the country. The AFN has been diligently advocating to ensure three pieces of legislation are passed by June 2019.

1. Bill C-91, *An Act Respecting Indigenous Languages*
2. Bill C-92, *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families*
3. Bill C-262, *An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

Due to the current political situation, AFN is confident that the Bills will pass through the House of Commons. However, the Senate, with its large portion of Independent Senators, may need more education and motivation to make these Bills a priority. AFN has requested the support of the CSBA and provincial Associations with their participation in a letter-writing campaign to Senators to share information on these important topics.

A webpage has been setup that we can use to send these letters to each Senator's email address. You are encouraged to ask family members, friends, and colleagues do the same by using the steps below.

1. Go to <https://www.afn.ca/legislative-advocacy>;
2. Each letter is attached and at the bottom of each letter, enter your first name, last name, address, and email address; and,
3. Press Send!