

CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

# PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN



Spring, 2024



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# Message from the President

The end of 2023 was a busy time for the CSBA Board of Directors, and work has continued into 2024. Throughout the fall I had the opportunity to spend time with trustees in Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and British Columbia. Speaking with so many passionate elected officials around the country is always refreshing and reinforces what I already know to be true – local voices in public education matter.

There continues to be follow-up with elected officials and senior staff in Ottawa since the advocacy meetings last fall. There have been additional meetings with staff from the Ministry of Families, Children, and Social Development, and the Minister of Agriculture regarding Bill C-322, an Act to develop a national framework to establish a school food program.

The Board of Directors met at the end of February in Alberta. CSBA committees and work groups presented reports, and heard from a number of partners and collaborators. These presentations and reports are always encouraging and demonstrate the amount of work trustees and education partners are doing every day to support students.

During the meeting we discussed work being done at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Ardith McGeown Plant, Executive Director with the Centre for Social Science Research and Policy at the University of Manitoba, and Dr. Royce Koop will be conducting research for their project, 'A professional profile of school trustees in Canada.' This research project will consist of a cross-Canada survey of elected school trustees covering several topics, including trustees' competencies and skills, the election process, leadership, and decision-making, as well as questions related to CSBA's strategic plan. We are very pleased to support this research and look forward to participating in the survey, and seeing the results.

Mary-Ann Zauhar-Hiscock joined the meeting virtually to present an update on the Canadian Heritage grant work, 'Faisons parler les données – Putting Data to Work.' Our members will be familiar with their work on the French teacher shortage in Canada. At the time of writing this update, we are waiting to hear if funding for this work will continue for 2024-2026.

Debbie Field with the Coalition for Healthy School Food presented to the Board of Directors virtually, sharing updates on funding in provinces. The Coalition for Health School Food brings together over 280 non-profit member organizations and 130 endorsers in every province and territory, including the CSBA. The [guiding principles](#) of the organization align with strategic goal areas of the CSBA, such as promoting food literacy and providing universal access to nutritious food in schools. Debbie is available for presentations, and materials are available in both French and English.

As we head into spring, we know that summer is just around the corner. Planning is well underway for the 2024 National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress being held in Toronto this July. Visit our website for the latest information on the conference, and be sure to watch our social media accounts for updates on registration and the program. We look forward to seeing you then!

Sincerely,

Alan Campbell



# Board of Directors Meetings February 2024



The CSBA Board of Directors met in Edmonton on February 28 and 29, 2024 for two days of very productive meetings. Members attended both in person and virtually. Thank you to the Alberta School Boards Association for hosting.

# Committee & Work Team Updates

## Indigenous Education Committee - Carolyn Broady, Chair

The Indigenous Education Committee continues its work on the implementation of recommendations of Daniel Brant & Associates to support Indigenous education across the country. The committee has reviewed the recommendations, and is in the process of identifying specific actions. The Board approved funding to contract First Voice leadership to move forward on this work.

The committee is planning to present this work at the 2024 National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress in Toronto.

The committee is very grateful that Felice MacKay, SSBA, is supporting the Indigenous Education Committee.

## Finance Committee - Cathy Abraham, Chair

The Finance Committee presented revised audited statements for 2022-23, which were approved by the Board of Directors.

The committee recommended the Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee be revised to remove responsibility for setting the annual executive stipend. The Board of Directors passed this motion, and will establish an ad-hoc committee to recommend the 2024-2025 stipend for the President and the Vice-President.



# 2024 Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education & CSBA Congress - *Our Shared Tomorrow*

The Ontario Public School Boards Association is working hard to develop a fantastic program for the 2024 National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education & CSBA Congress! The following high-level agenda is available to assist with making travel plans:

Tuesday, July 2 (evening) – Registration opens

Wednesday, July 3 – Full Day of Programming + Cocktail Reception and Banquet Dinner

Thursday, July 4 – Programming until 3pm, evening on your own

Friday, July 5 – Morning Programming, Congress to conclude midday



Ontario Public School  
Boards' Association

## Registration Fees:

\$995 for early bird (available until April 30th)

\$1150 (After April 30th)

Student trustees can attend at the discounted rate of \$690



The CSBA & OPSBA look forward to welcoming trustees and school board staff from across Canada to the 2024 CSBA Congress and National Trustee Gathering!

# National Reconciliation Partnership Award

The CSBA is very excited to call for nominations for the National Reconciliation Partnership Award (NRPA). Rooted in a spirit of genuine reconciliation, the award is intended to recognize excellence in achievement of the Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in 2015. The NRPA focuses on demonstrated evidence of the principles of innovation, authenticity, relationship, capacity-building and good stewardship.

The national partnership award will focus on demonstration of significant and sustained commitment by both publicly funded school boards and local Indigenous communities to the promotion of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples through the good of public education.

The inaugural ceremonies for induction to the award will take place at the upcoming National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress hosted by the Ontario School Boards Association in Toronto, July 3-5, 2024. The award will continue to be presented each year at the National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress.

To nominate or apply, please visit the CSBA website [HERE](#). For questions, contact [admin@saskschoolboards.ca](mailto:admin@saskschoolboards.ca)

## Copyright

The CSBA supported social media activities during Fair Dealing Week in February, 2024. Materials shared during the campaign emphasized the importance of copyright compliance and promoted the use of the websites [CopyrightMatters.ca](#) and [FairDealingDecisionTool.ca](#).

It is critical that schools follow the rules to ensure that the educational exemptions (Fair Dealings) are maintained. There is a great deal of pressure federally on the part of Access Copyright to remove the education exemption. This would increase the costs to boards exponentially.

Federal Court Ruling:

The Federal Court ruled in favour of Ontario school boards and provincial Ministries of Education in the litigation related to the tariff overpayment by educational users. The ruling determined educational users are owed a refund for the 2010, 2011, and 2012 years and further, that they were not licensees during the following years.

# Pollock Report

The Board of Directors received a report entitled, “Local Voice in Decision-Making at the School System Level Across Canada.” Researched by Dr. Katina Pollock, this study was commissioned by the CSBA to examine local decision-making in publicly funded K-12 education systems.

Trustees across Canada have concerns around the loss of local voice in public education. Member associations will share the results with trustees over the coming weeks.

The researchers will present a session at the upcoming 2024 National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress to review their recommendations and facilitate discussion on how trustees and associations can take action. The report will be released publicly at the CSBA Annual General Meeting.

The ad-hoc committee will continue to meet to process the recommendations and facilitate activities with trustees and associations to support local voice in public education.

# Equity & Racial Justice Project

The CSBA contracted the University of Regina to create professional development modules designed to encourage and support school boards and trustees as they work to revise policies and leadership practices to better support the needs and aspirations of students and families who are Indigenous, Black or otherwise racialized. Offered through the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), the modules are open to all trustees, and we encourage you to register and complete the modules.

Upcoming Modules (offered in English and French) - Modules will be delivered asynchronously

Module 1: Understanding the history of colonization, colonialism, race and racialization in Canadian society.

Module 2: The impacts of colonization, colonialism, race and racialization on the Canadian Education system.

Module 3: Redesigning and rebuilding an equitable and racially-just education system.

**Cost: \$165/module**

[Register online](#)

# Statement from the CSBA on the Federal Government's announcement of a new National School Food Program

Throughout the country, local school boards have an intimate understanding of the significant challenges that food insecurity poses for many families.

For too many students, the reality of starting their school day hungry makes learning and participating very challenging.

While school boards in all parts of Canada have, for many years, been actively engaged with local and provincial partners on the provision of food and nutrition programs for public schools, today's announcement from the federal government will prove to be very important for countless students and their families.

The CSBA has strongly advocated for the creation of a National School Food Program and we look forward to continued engagement with federal and provincial governments on this important work.

Students who are taking  
at least 50% of their courses  
in French could be eligible  
for the FSL bursary

**WORTH \$3,000!**

