



# CSBA PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2017



Floyd Martens, CSBA President

## CSBA DECLARATION

### REGARDING IMPACT OF CANNABIS LEGALIZATION ON SCHOOLS

The legalization of cannabis and the potential adverse impacts represent a challenge for all stakeholders connected to public education. The use of cannabis can have considerable influence on school life and has been linked to elevated rates of social, emotional and intellectual difficulty, as well as of non-completion of studies. These realities are well known to those who work in the field of education in Canada.

#### AS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION:

- We provide youth with the opportunity to mature and develop in a safe, healthy learning environment, enabling them to achieve education success;
- We educate young people and adults to be informed, conscientious and autonomous citizens who will assume their position as active members in the development of Canadian Society;
- We promote the importance of wellbeing and leading healthy lifestyles through nutrition, physical activity and the prevention of substance abuse.

#### WE DECLARE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL:

- That education partners be consulted by the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments on the establishment of the framework for cannabis legalization;
- That education partners be active partners at any provincial discussions about legislation, local policies and procedures;
- That education partners be consulted by the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Governments on strategies for harm reduction, mitigation and other interventions;
- That monies generated by the sales of cannabis are allocated to the prevention of cannabis abuse and toward promoting a healthy lifestyle;
- That cannabis use prevention and reduction, as well as the promotion of healthy lifestyles remain Crown priorities and are integrated into Federal, Provincial and Territorial regulations pertaining to legalization of cannabis;
- That any advertising related to cannabis or use of cannabis, be prohibited;
- That the use of cannabis be prohibited in public areas;
- That the sale and distribution of cannabis be prohibited near schools and other educational facilities.



## CSBA and NGTAE 2017

Over 350 delegates joined us in Whistler BC to share best practices, learn about recent research on the most pressing issues trustees are facing today and to become informed about the present work of the ministries of Health, Education and Indian Affairs. In providing this quality professional development opportunity, we support boards learning and provide connections to individuals and tools that can help support them, their work and the students in their own jurisdictions. To see some of the presentations you may have missed, check the link: <http://cdnsba.org/ngtae-csba-congress-2017>

**Governance:** There continues to be challenges to the governance role of school boards across Canada. Nova Scotia is the last jurisdiction to announce a review of their education system. CSBA will be monitoring the impact of this review.

### ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

**Copyright:**

As per the 5-year renewal commitment, the government will review copyright legislation and the “Fair Dealing Guidelines” for the education sector. While the publishing industry along with several others, has suffered with advances in technology, the impact in education has been small. We are working together with several other leaders (CMEC, CTF, CASSA, Universities Canada, etc.) to protect the current guidelines and ensure that the cost of reproducing small amounts of text for students is kept to a reasonable amount. A change to the current practice would have a significant financial impact for school boards across Canada. Make sure your schools are following the present guidelines as inspectors will be coming through Canadian schools. We will continue to work on behalf of all partners to ensure a positive outcome.

**Congress 2018:**

In Halifax July 4-8, the plans for the Congress are beginning to take shape. Speakers include Dr. Stan Kutcher, Dr. Blye Frank, Candy Palmater, Bette MacDonald and Maynard Morrison. The website is online ([www.csba2018.ca](http://www.csba2018.ca)) and we will inform you when registration is open.

**Representation:**

This fall marked the first Board Meeting that included our newest member; the *Federation des Commissions Scolaires du Quebec*, an important addition of 59 Canadian school boards (860,000 students). Their input has already been valuable. Membership at CSBA continues to grow. Not only the AFN, but New Brunswick English District Education Council joined us again for our board meeting and in our research activities (e.g. Cross County profile on FNMI representation/funding, elections/voting policy, trustee profiles) and we look forward to the involvement of OCSTA.

We want to congratulate the Trustees who were recently elected in Alberta. The coming year will see school trustee/commissioner elections being held in 6 provinces. Check our website for materials that may help with preparations and promoting elections.

## THE ISSUES:

The Canadian School Boards Association met recently in Wendake, Quebec for the fall Board of Directors meeting, the first since a very successful 2017 Congress in Whistler, B.C. Each jurisdiction shared information on their activities and challenges and the Board continued to work on advancing our key priority areas:

**Student Health and Wellness:** Much of our work this past meeting focused on the Legalization of Cannabis. Following an example set by Quebec leaders in education from both the English and French sectors, CSBA drafted a National Declaration on Cannabis which was signed by our members, our colleagues at the OCSTA and NBDEC and other national education partners. All participants helped draft the declaration which asks those who will determine policy to include education partners in the process, as well as to consider the principles we believe need to be adopted by both the Federal and Provincial governments in order to protect Canadian students (see the back section of this bulletin).

Following several meetings with our partners in education, the Board also expanded the focus of the Student Health and Wellness Committee to include the entire school community reflecting our commitment to Comprehensive School Health and providing the tools and education that can help schools provide a healthy environment for all.

**FNMI Education:** The committee continues to gather information from across the country to create a national portrait on best practices in FNMI education. School board representation, governmental agreements for funding, and self identification are among the information being collected. We continue to share information/tools with INCA and other organizations. We are pleased to have representation from the Assembly of First Nations at our table for our meetings now and appreciate the insight and leadership provided there.

PEACE AND JOY  
BE WITH YOU  
THROUGH THE  
HOLIDAYS!

As the the  
holidays  
approach, we  
hope you plan  
to take the time  
to recharge and  
find time to be  
with friends  
and family.  
Whether a  
trustee or a  
teacher or bus  
driver, children  
are learning  
from your  
example.  
Practice self  
care!

