

# Canadian School Boards Association

## PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN



June 2026



As I conclude my four-year term and step down from my role I reflect on what an incredible honour it has been to serve as President and work with such a committed group of national leaders. I have truly enjoyed this opportunity to contribute to the work of the Association and to collaborate with passionate advocates for local governance and public education from across Canada.

Since my last bulletin in December, the Board of Directors has met twice to discuss organizational priorities, committee work, emerging issues across jurisdictions and implementation of the new Strategic Plan.

Key updates at all meetings, either Board of Directors or committees, included continued implementation of the new strategic plan focused on Advocacy, Indigenous Education and Health & Wellness.

We were pleased to launch the new CSBA website – [www.cdnsba.org](http://www.cdnsba.org) – with a refreshed look and feel. The CSBA continues to act as a resource for elected school board members and trustees, and our national education partners. The Board encourages everyone to visit the site and take a tour.

A digital version of the 2026-2032 CSBA Strategic Plan is available on our website. Keeping in line with emerging and pressing issues across the country, the pillars of the strategic plan focus on advancing public education for everyone. With the approval of the new Strategic Plan there was a need to align Board Committee structure to best support the three strategic priorities and direction:

- Advocacy and Public Leadership
- Reconciliation and Indigenous Partnerships
- Contextualizing Education with Health and Wellness

The Board voted to dissolve the Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Anti-Racism Committee with the nature of this committee's work taken on by the Board of Directors as a whole and integrated into the work of other committees. The Comprehensive School Health Committee has been renamed as the Health and Wellness Committee and a new Advocacy Committee was established.

Not all work happens at the Board of Directors meetings. Board members are engaged in committee work, and many have participated in a national roundtable discussion on emerging educational issues across Canada.

The CSBA and our members continue to support local governance and will be working to ensure our advocacy work continues to focus on these efforts. We have established a Communications Leads Working Group from our member associations to increase collaboration. I am excited to see how together we can leverage our collective voices to promote the importance of local voices and local choices.

***continued***

As a national organization, we work to leverage the benefits of broad discussions and bringing partners together. As every year, I am greatly looking forward to bringing together elected board members and trustees, along with many different education partners, in Whistler at the 2026 Trustees Gathering on Education, Innovation and Reconciliation. The gathering will offer sessions on:

- Truth and Reconciliation
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Student Success
- Leadership
- Emerging issues: AI and Climate Change

Together, we will explore how strong, inclusive governance can transform systems, deepen relationships and create equitable opportunities for every learner. I look forward to seeing you all in Whistler in July, and hearing from speakers, presenters and fellow CSBA members.

It has been an incredible four years as President, and a true honour. The dedication and commitment to public education by elected school board members and trustees throughout Canada is inspiring. Thank you for everything you do – around the board table and in the community – to support our students and support our future.

Regards,



Alan Campbell, President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# CSBA Website

The new CSBA website has launched! The site reflects the look and feel of the new branding and has streamlined content.

[cdnsba.org](https://cdnsba.org)



**CSBA | ACCS**  
Canadian School Boards Association  
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Advocating for Student Success & Locally Elected School Boards

## Canadian School Boards Association

Representing school board associations across Canada. Collectively, our 9 member associations represents 244 Boards of Education. We advocate for educational success, local democracy, and the value of elected school boards.

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Member  
Associations

240+  
Elected School  
Boards

4M+  
Students

50  
Years of  
Advocacy



## Faisons parler les données Putting Data to Work Update

The Putting Data to Work database is now fully operational with participation from nearly all francophone school systems in Canada. Participating systems have access to three years of data to inform workforce planning and retention strategies.

With recent commitment from francophone school systems in Alberta and British Columbia to participate in the data pilot, the project's reach and relevance will extend even further.





# Committee Updates

## INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The CSBA has identified reconciliation and Indigenous partnerships as a central priority within our 2026–2032 Strategic Plan. Conducting the Indigenous Education national survey represents an important step in that journey. It was designed not as a reporting or evaluation exercise but as an opportunity to listen – to gather practical examples, learn from one another, and better understand how Indigenous education and anti-racist education are being supported across provincial and territorial systems.

The responses gathered through this survey illustrate both the diversity and the strength of work underway. They highlight established policies, innovative local practices, evolving governance models and meaningful partnerships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. They also remind us that reconciliation is ongoing work – requiring sustained relationship-building, continuous learning and thoughtful adaptation to local realities.

The Association continues to work closely with Felice McKay (SSBA), who has contributed significant time and expertise in this area. We look forward to discussing the survey and results at the upcoming 2026 Trustees Gathering on Education, Innovation and Reconciliation in Whistler.

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee has held discussions related to membership and a national communications strategy promoting the importance of local democratic governance in public education.

A draft communications plan presented by the Governance Committee focused on strengthening public awareness of local governance and democratic representation was approved by the Board.

## ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Advocacy Committee met in April, where Joe Ortona was elected the Chair of the committee. Planning has begun for the next advocacy event in Ottawa. The event will be moving from the fall to the spring to better align with federal budget decision timelines. Therefore, the next event will take place in the spring of 2027. Discussions continue regarding format, goals and itinerary to maximize the time spent in Ottawa, meeting with as many leaders as possible.



[www.cdnsba.org](http://www.cdnsba.org)



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## HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

The Health & Wellness Committee met in April where Sandy Nemeth was elected the Chair of the committee. The group approved a new Terms of Reference that aligns with the Board's strategic priority of contextualizing education within health and wellness mandates. Discussions about how to strengthen national conversations linking education and health surfaced as being a priority of the committee. The committee agreed to focus on strengthening relationships and collaboration with several national organizations focused on health and education. Some examples of this work include:

- Continuing the Association's collaboration with the National Coalition for Healthy School Food, including an invitation for CSBA to support the coalition's federal Budget 2026 advocacy efforts and review its pre-budget recommendations.
- Membership on the steering committee of the Canadian School Mental Health Leadership Network and recent facilitation of a presentation featuring research on student absenteeism by Dr. Jenn Whitley.
- CSBA representatives plan to present at the Take Me Outside Leadership Conference in Banff in October 2026 on topics related to how school governance can support outdoor learning. This will be an excellent opportunity to speak to the importance of local governance supporting student wellbeing.

## TRUSTEES GATHERING ON EDUCATION, INNOVATION & RECONCILIATION

The 2026 Trustees Gathering on Education, Innovation and Reconciliation is fast approaching! **REGISTER TODAY**

This annual gathering brings together leaders and decision-makers from across Canada's K-12 public education systems. School trustees, senior district leaders, Indigenous rights holders and knowledge keepers, and education and corporate partners will join us in beautiful Whistler, BC for three days of exceptional learning, deep connection and collective leadership.

The program includes keynote speakers Jody Wilson-Raybould, Rick Hansen, Susan Aglukark and Jon Montgomery. Plenary sessions will also be exciting featuring an Indigenous Leaders Panel and Dr. Brad Baker, Superintendent of Indigenous Education with the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care.

While the conference hotel is full, it is possible attend by registering and arranging your own accommodation. Several great hotels are just a short walk from the Fairmont Chateau Whistler Resort:

- [Four Seasons Resort Whistler](#) (closest)
- [Pan Pacific Mountainside Whistler](#)
- [Pan Pacific Whistler Village](#)
- [The Westin Resort & Spa Whistler](#)
- [Hilton Whistler Resort](#)

  
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