

President's Bulletin

March 2020

CSBA Board of Directors

Laurie French, President
Alain Fortier, Vice-President
Lorrie Jess, ASBA
Vivian Abboud, ASBA
Stephanie Higginson, BCSTA
Mike Roberts, BCSTA
Christiane Barbe, FCSQ
Alan Campbell, MSBA
Josh Watt, MSBA
Robert Fowler, NBDEC
Stacey Brown, NBDEC
Brian Shortall, NLSBA
Cathy Abraham, OPSBA
Rusty Hick, OPSBA
Dan Lamoureaux, QESBA
Russell Copeman, QESBA
Shawn Davidson, SSBA
Darren McKee, SSBA



We are excited to publish the first CSBA President's Bulletin of 2020! Last year was busy and there are no signs that things will be slowing down for this year.

The executive committee has met regularly since the October meeting, in response to identified items to keep us on top of actions and issues between Board meetings. I am proud of the consistent level of activity and dedication our members show for the Association.

Advocacy continues to be a top priority in our work. The situation in Quebec is very concerning with the passing of Bill 40. The CSBA continues to work with our partners in Quebec to raise awareness of the damage that Bill 40 will

cause to the public education system for all students, not just French majority language students. The executive director and I maintain our role in APPELLE, in support of the full democratic rights of English minority language school boards.

News from PEI is very encouraging, with the government announcing the reinstatement of elected school boards. I have written to the Minister of Education offering support and have a meeting scheduled to assist with their reintroduction of strong governance.

I enjoyed attending QESBA, ASBA and MSBA's Fall General Meetings, with my Vice President attending SSBA this year. It is very rewarding to connect with members and to have the opportunity to speak with trustees from provincial associations. It is heartening to experience first hand the consistent dedication and commitment of trustees, whose primary concern is the well being and achievement of children and youth.

I was pleased to present at CACE –ACACE in October in Winnipeg with Alan Campbell and Kim Hamilton about our cross-country advocacy and efforts underway to promote, engage and protect public representation and good governance in education.

I participated in a meeting with trustees in Yellowknife January 21st by video, to introduce CSBA and talk about shared priorities. I shared a cross-country overview on education governance at OPSBA's Public Education Symposium in January as well, with Michael Barrett, OPSBA and Paul Wozney, Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

Based on the decisions of the Board in October following input from trustees at Congress 2019, the executive completed the updated 2019-2023 CSBA strategic plan and vetted it through the Strategic Planning Work Team. [The Board has signed off on the detailed plan, and an abbreviated version is on the website.](#) The four strategic area pillars are:

- Advocacy
- Indigenous Education
- Trustee Development
- Health

Continued...



CSBA Website Updates!

Recent updates to the CSBA website include revised content and a new translation feature! Visitors to the website can now select if they would like to view the website in French or English.

Visit www.cdnsba.org to check it out today!

Some goals include:

- CSBA is the national voice in issues that are important to education – continued growth in profile.
- Member associations are supported in their advocacy work.
- Indigenous Education work continues to be advanced – with a focus on promoting information sharing and relationships through leveraging provinces and partners.
- Members and partners are aware of the CSBA Indigenous Education work.
- Specific health education issues are addressed: Vaping, student transportation, cannabis.

Trustees have access to a CSBA on-line Trustee Development Program that leads to a certificate in:

- Governance and ethics
- Indigenous Education
- Finance
- Advocacy
- Trustee Induction
- Trustees and student achievement

I look forward to our continued work on behalf of trustees across the country, and the students we all serve.

Yours in education,



2020 National Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress Update!

The Alberta School Boards Association has developed a strong program of learning and development. Accommodations in Banff are in high demand in July. Please note that reservations for the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity are full. Reservations for the Banff Lodging Company are nearly full.

Banff Lodging Company at 1-800-563-8764. Mention promo code CSBA2020 when booking over the phone

Banff Aspen Lodge at 1-877-886-8857. Mention promo code CSBA2020 when booking over the phone

Registration will be opening soon. Check <https://www.asba.ab.ca/about/academies-conferences/csba2020/> for updates!

Bill 40 Update

Bill 40, An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance, was originally tabled in May 2019. There had been ongoing discussions with the Minister, and while he listened to the concerns from education partners in Quebec, there was no follow-up. The government defined the purpose of the bill as “...mainly to revise the organization and governance of the school boards, which are to become school service centres administered by a board of directors composed of parents, community members and members of the school service centre staff”

An additional amendment was added on February 7 to eliminate French trustees as soon as the bill was adopted on February 8. The focus of this bill has been on trustees and school boards, not on minority language rights. The minister has reduced the rights of trustees so they cannot launch a court challenge.

Amendments to the bill will increase the number of representatives for the 72 service centres, but the composition will be greatly different than the current governance structure.

Ottawa Advocacy Event

In May the Board of Directors will be meeting in Ottawa and hosting an Advocacy Event. Meetings are being arranged with Ministers whose portfolios concern education. Last year the Board of Directors met with multiple Ministers, MPs and Senators to discuss public education on a national scope.

The Advocacy Event will also include a media event for the CSBA to launch concerns on a national stage.

School board members and trustees across the country are encouraged to meet with their local Members of Parliament to discuss education. Members can also consider inviting their MP to a board meeting when the house is not in session.

CSBA Committee Updates

CSBA Indigenous Education Committee

National Reconciliation Partnership Award:

Recent Committee work has focused on the development of criteria for application and selection of nominees for the National Reconciliation Partnership Award. The goal is to recognize joint Indigenous and public school progress on the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

The Assembly of First Nations will take the lead on finalizing the details and the process. Once an information and application package are finalized, they will be distributed through each provincial association.

Downie-Wenjack Fund for School Related Materials:

The Committee reviewed the Downie-Wenjack Fund for School Related Materials to determine if the CSBA would support the dissemination of the school kit across the country. The Committee is recommending the provincial associations support the distribution of the materials.

Development of guidance on "asking the right questions" to develop positive partnerships and agreements between public school boards and First Nations education authorities

The MSBA provided an overview of CSBA's commitment to develop a "right questions" guide for public school boards to use when moving forward with First Nations partners in developing partnerships. The goal is to have this completed for the 2020 Gathering and Congress, and possibly hold one workshop on the topic to help showcase positive practices and partnerships. Due to the diverse nature of the relationships from coast to coast, the guide would focus on general principals and approaches rather than specific details.

Emergent Issues Work Team

The Emergent Issues Work Team met and addressed numerous timely issues. The increasing prominence of CSBA is clear, as organizations and initiatives reach out to us as the national voice for education. We have continued to connect nationally to partners in education to expand and enhance the reach of CSBA.

Charter Schools:

The Work Team reviewed information on charter schools provided by NSBA.

The Board will need to ensure that there is a common understanding of what it means to be a "charter school". It is also important to acknowledge that Charter schools are handled differently at the provincial/territorial level.

Student Transportation:

The Executive Director continues to participate in some School Bus Safety Advisory Committee meetings.

The Deputy Ministers have approved four recommendations developed by the Task Force on school bus safety:

1. Infraction cameras to help prevent dangerous incidents caused by passing motorists
2. Extended stop arms to further deter motorists from passing when children are entering or leaving the bus
3. Exterior 360 cameras as a means of better detecting/protecting children and other vulnerable road users around the exterior of the bus
4. Automatic emergency braking to help avoid collisions with pedestrians, cyclists and other vehicles

Copyright:

CSBA continues to collaborate with CMEC on copyright and will post and promote awareness materials.

Committee updates continued...

Governance Work Team

The Governance Work Team has met several times. Supported by highly experienced education leader Judy White, the Work Team is revising the Constitution for consideration by the Board of Directors for subsequent decision at the 2020 AGM. The Work Team is also reviewing all policies. The revised policies will be available on the CSBA website.

Health Education Work Team

The Health Education Work Team has been active with one of the main topics of discussion being vaping. The CSBA President will write to the federal Minister of Health and provincial Ministers of Health lobbying for policy directions related to vaping.

Sue Stevenson, retired health educator and school administrator is working with our Executive Director to support the work team.

At the most recent Board of Directors meeting, it was decided they would endorse the Canadian Alliance for Healthy School Communities Declaration of Commitment. [Charter of Commitment link](#)

Table nationale en français langue seconde/National Table for French as a Second Language

The Executive Director attended her first meeting of the National Table on French as a Second Language in December. Membership consists of the federal government (Canadian Heritage), provincial and territorial governments, and selected national associations (Association canadienne des professionnels en immersion (ACPI), Canadian Parents for French (CPF), Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT), Canadian Teachers Federation (CTF), Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne (ACUFC), and CSBA.

The mandate is to bring together the main players in the field of learning French as a second language to:

- discuss common issues;
- facilitate the sharing of information, expertise, winning practices and solutions; and,
- foster cooperation and collaboration among members.

Three priorities were identified:

- promoting the value of learning French as a Second Language
- recruitment and retention of FSL teachers
- access to FSL programs (availability, inclusion, for all, rural/urban, indigenous languages).

