

# President's Bulletin

Summer 2020

## CSBA Board of Directors

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While the world continues to grapple with COVID-19, work has continued across the country on behalf of our members and our students. Educators, administrators and government officials have been working to find safe solutions for learning in September, and trustees have been providing support through communication and governance of their public education systems. It's a stressful time with many questions, but by continuing to work together we can best serve our students and communities. I applaud those governments working in meaningful partnership with their local school boards.

CSBA meetings continue virtually, and I've had the pleasure of speaking with Irvine Carvery, a former trustee from Nova Scotia and social justice advocate for a series of interviews. Through these conversations it is our hope to support learning and awareness about racism in education in our country, including the challenges faced by people of African descent and how trustees can work to improve the system for all students. Our interviews are posted on our YouTube channel and links are found on our Twitter and Facebook accounts. I encourage everyone to watch these interviews and take the opportunity to learn, as I did, about the complexities that make up education in Canada. I'm also looking forward to interviewing Shelley Morse from the Canadian Teachers' Federation, so watch for that video in August!

With the cancellation of Congress 2020, CSBA will be holding a virtual Annual General Meeting at 12:30 Eastern on September 28, 2020. More details are to follow, but I do hope you mark it on your calendars and plan to participate from a distance. Our Board of Directors will be happy to see you virtually!

While on the topic of Congress and the National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education, we also want to announce that the 2021 event will be held virtually. The Quebec English School Boards Association is hosting the event. Rather than meeting in Montreal, QESBA, in partnership with the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) and the Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA) will hold an abridged version of the National Gathering and CSBA Congress using only on-line tools. Planning is already underway for an interactive and relevant event that promises to be an excellent learning opportunity for all who participate.

I want to thank all of the trustees and school staff who continue to work to maintain students' learning while keeping them safe. We have seen many creative ways that teachers and school staff connected with students and families, especially for graduation ceremonies. On behalf of the CSBA Board of Directors, I wish our 2020 graduates all the best.

I also want to wish everyone a safe and happy summer break. While it may look different for many of us, I hope this summer provides time for you all to relax, unwind and reflect as we prepare for another school year in September.

Yours in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie French". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurie French, President



## CASSA and CSBA Collaboration

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the CSBA met regularly with the Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA). CASSA represents superintendents, directors and other senior school system leaders. Meeting every two weeks, and later monthly, the CSBA and CASSA online discussions provided an opportunity for the members of the two boards to share challenges and successes. Participants were able to raise questions, seek input and offer advice and support to each other. Feedback from participants has been very positive and this demonstration of the power of effective collaboration is very important, especially in challenging times.

### Covid-19 Website Updates

Visit [www.cdnsba.org](http://www.cdnsba.org) to see regular updates from colleagues across Canada on their Covid-19 response initiatives.

## CSBA on YouTube!

CSBA President Laurie French has completed multiple interviews with various leaders in Canada on topics ranging from mental health to systemic racism. These videos are available on the CSBA YouTube channel and all members are encouraged to check them out and share on their social media. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMiLkAwn-VFdOXI1cRK-KeA>

**Senator Stan Kutcher:** Senator Kutcher is a world-renowned child psychologist who was appointed to the Senate in 2018. Check out [www.teenmentalhealth.org](http://www.teenmentalhealth.org) for more information on his work with youth. The discussion between Senator Kutcher and Laurie focused on mental health and wellbeing in trustees, educators and students.

**Irvine Carvery:** Mr. Irvine Carvery is 7th generation Africville born and Chair of the Africville Genealogy Society in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was one of the first students in the transition year at Dalhousie – a foundation program for Indigenous and African Nova Scotia students to enter university. Mr. Carvery served as chair of the Council on African Canadian Education, which provides direct advice to the Nova Scotia Minister of Education and is an experienced trustee and chaired the former Halifax Regional School Board. Mr. Carvery and Laurie discussed systemic racism in education and how trustees can work together to improve the system for all students.

## National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education & CSBA Congress 2021

The CSBA Congress and National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education will have a new unique twist in 2021! The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) was set to host the Gathering and Congress in Montreal in July of 2021. Due to the uncertainty and restrictions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided that QESBA in partnership with the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) and the Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA) would hold an abridged version of the National Gathering and CSBA Congress using only on-line tools.

Not to worry, we're already seeking interactive and relevant topics as key elements of professional development for both the National Gathering on Indigenous Education and the CSBA Congress. The planning Committee will begin meeting in August to define an ambitious program that will appeal to Trustees from throughout Canada. We look forward to building a program and presenting it to you all in this new reality we face.

CSBA looks forward to seeing you all again soon on-line in 2021 and in-person in 2022 in Manitoba.