

President's Bulletin

Fall 2020

CSBA Board of Directors

Laurie French, President

Carolyn Broady, Vice-President (BCSTA)

Renée St. Germain, AFN

Denis Chartand, ACÉPO

Isabelle Girard, ACÉPO

Lorrie Jess, ASBA

Vivian Abboud, ASBA

Mike Roberts, BCSTA

Alan Campbell, MSBA

Josh Watt, MSBA

Robert Fowler, NBDEC

Stacey Brown, NBDEC

Goronwy Price, NLESD

Cathy Abraham, OPSBA

Rusty Hick, OPSBA

Dan Lamoureux, QESBA

Russell Copeman, QESBA

Shawn Davidson, SSBA

Darren McKee, SSBA

Nancy Pynch-Worthylake,
CSBA, Executive Director



I am once again honoured to serve as CSBA President for the 2020-2021 year, continuing to advance action in support of school boards across Canada. I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their continued support and leadership. School boards throughout the country are fortunate to have such talented and dedicated trustees to lead their associations and to represent them nationally. social justice advocate for a series of interviews.

On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to welcome Carolyn Broady to the executive as CSBA Vice President. Carolyn is chair of the SD45 (West Vancouver) Board of Education and Vice President of the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA). A mother

of two teenage children, Carolyn is passionate about public education and believes that we need to continue to work to ensure that every student in our K-12 system gets the support and individualized attention they need to reach their full potential.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution and leadership of Alain Fortier. Alain was president of the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec, and Vice President of CSBA, departing after the negative consequences to education democracy resulting from the decision of the Quebec government to eliminate majority Francophone school boards. Alain was a champion for bilingualism in our organization and democratic representation in public education and he will be missed at our table.

The 2021 AGM took place virtually on October 2, 2020. I am very pleased to share with you the Annual Report, which outlines the work and leadership of the CSBA in the past year. I encourage you to check it out on our website. <https://www.cdnsba.org/flipbook/2019-2020-annual-report/?page=1>

The following months will continue to be challenging for everyone as we navigate through our new world with COVID-19. I would like to commend the work of all members of the education community, including volunteers and school staff, who are so dedicated to serving students.

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

**Covid-19 Website
Updates**

Visit www.cdnsba.org to see regular updates from colleagues across Canada on their Covid-19 response initiatives.



Special General Meeting – CSBA Governance

The CSBA Governance Work Team has been very productive this past year. Under the leadership of Chair, Carolyn Broady, the Constitution has been completely revised and all policies reviewed and revised. On November 24, 2020 at 5:00pm EDT, there was a Special General Meeting to debate and vote on a revised constitution. The CSBA is pleased to announce that the revised constitution was approved. More information on the revisions can be found on the CSAB website.

ACÉPO joins CSBA

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome to the CSBA l'Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO). ACÉPO will be represented at our national table by President Denis Chartrand and Executive Director Isabelle Girard. Denis Chartrand was elected President of ACÉPO in January 2017 and was re-elected for a fourth mandate in January 2019. He is committed to ensure that Francophone students across Ontario have equitable and inclusive access to high-quality French-language public education. Isabelle Girard has served as Executive Director since late 2017. She has focused in particular on government relations development with the Association and on the orderly conduct of the second round of negotiations for the 2019-2020 central collective agreements.

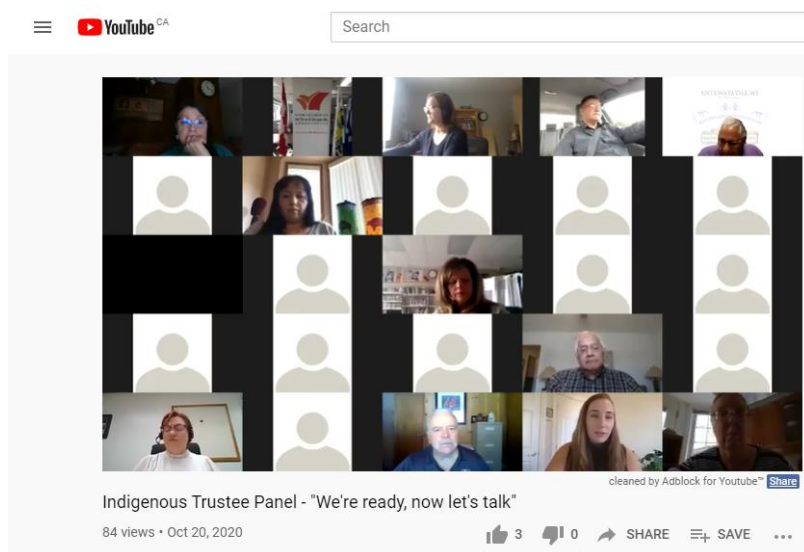
CSBA is excited to expand membership by having ACÉPO join the national voice for public education. The association is stronger with them at the table.

Indigenous Education

Indigenous Education continues to be a primary focus for the CSBA, and this work has never been more important. The elimination of face-to-face meetings has made the implementation and promotion of the work very challenging; however, under the leadership of Chair Josh Watt, and with the time and dedication of BOD member Renee St.Germain, we are working on the finalization of a MOU with the Assembly of First Nations. Once finalized, this MOU will set the agenda for concrete strategies and actions to support joint priorities. Of vital importance in this work will be the adoption of an accountability framework to hold us accountable for authentic progress.

On October 8, 2020, the CSBA hosted an online panel, entitled: *We're ready now, let's talk: Reflections from Indigenous Trustees*. Facilitated by Renee St.Germain, Acting Director of Education with the Assembly of First Nations, panelists shared their expertise, experience and advice. Having the opportunity to hear First Voice from panelists Barbara Flett, Kimberley Greyeyes, Peter Garrow, and Darren Googoo is simply an opportunity not to be missed. All members are encouraged to view and listen to the messages of these wise leaders who have served students as trustees across this land.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvwk5ng7DD4&t=1225s>



Anti-Racism and Social Justice

The CSBA Board of Directors met very recently to determine next steps in anti-racism work. The Board is working on an Acknowledgement on Equity and Diversity, which will be released as soon as possible. The Board also formed a Work Team, whose task it will be to ensure concrete actions. One of the priorities is the development of a Trustee PD Module. In preparation an inventory of what is available or in development will be created to avoid duplication of time and effort and to ensure that the CSBA work complements what members associations and partners are doing.

There has been excellent uptake on the series of interviews with CSBA President Laurie French and Irvine Carvery in July. This response speaks to the readiness of trustees to deeply and authentically engage in anti-racist learning and action.

CSBA has renewed our partnership with the National School Board Association, meeting their President Charlie Wilson, and their new Executive Director Anna Chavez, and we are exploring ways to partner on their systemic racism strategy “Dismantling Institutional Racism in Education (DIRE)”, and sharing our Indigenous education activities.

Lack of Internet Connectivity

In July, the president of the Canadian Association of School System Administrators and I wrote to Federal Minister Monsef and Minister Bains regarding lack of internet connectivity in many areas of the country, particularly in remote and already marginalized communities, with further follow-up since then. As you will be aware, the Prime Minister has announced funding specifically targeted at connectivity; however, the target date is 2026. This is simply too late and the CSBA will continue advocacy efforts on behalf of students and those who serve them.



APPELE Quebec

CSBA continues to participate and support the efforts of APPELE Quebec as they seek to halt and challenge Bill 40 that eliminated majority language French school boards in Quebec, and drastically reduced minority language school board representation, structures and decision-making. Their successful request to suspend implementation until the court hears the legal case, despite Appeal by the Government, was upheld, and minority English language Trustees remain in place.

CSBA & CASSA Collaboration

The Boards of Directors of CSBA and the Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA) have continued to meet monthly to share updates and information related to COVID-19. This forum has been valuable, with cross-country information available on our website.

Working jointly in this and other areas of mutual concern mentioned earlier is of benefit to students, families, everyone who serves them. Thanks to former President Curtis Brown, Past President Reg Klassen and Executive Director Ken Bain for their vision and leadership.

Patrimoine canadien/Canadian Heritage Project Application Update

The Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophone (FNCFS) and CSBA have submitted a joint application to Patrimoine canadien/Canadian Heritage, as part of the French Minority Language Teacher and French Second Language Teacher (Core and Immersion) recruitment, hiring and retention strategy. Le Regroupement national des directions générales de l'éducation (RNDGE) – the national francophone school system administrators' organization – and the Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA) are partnering with FNCFS and CSBA in this proposed project and exciting opportunity for our association.

Congress and National Gathering 2021

The National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education will take place July 6, 2021, with Congress immediately following on July 7 and 8. Both events will be virtual and are being organized and hosted by QESBA in collaboration with the Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA), and promise to be unique and interactive.

International Student Visas

The CSBA is very concerned about the impact on school systems throughout Canada with the loss of international students. While the top priority must be health and safety, we are concerned that the lack of processing of student visas will continue to have a negative impact once borders are able to be safely reopened. With Board approval, CSBA President Laurie French wrote to Minister Mendicino regarding this important issue, asking that processes be restarted so we are ready when it is safe to resume the acceptance of international students.



Health Education

The Health Education Work Team continues to be very active. Under the leadership of Alan Campbell, and with the support of Consultant Sue Stevenson, the Work Team reviews requests for collaboration and promotion. The CSBA is very pleased to have a formal partnership agreement with the Alliance for School Health. Through this partnership, CSBA will continue to support initiatives to improve system-wide health.

CSBA is working in collaboration with Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada on an initiative that aims to reduce the incidence of online child sexual exploitation and cyberbullying in Canada by providing tools and resources to young people and caregivers of youth to empower them to take action to protect against online child sexual exploitation and cyberbullying.



School Bus Safety

CSBA continues to participate on the Transport Canada Advisory Panel Survey on School Bus Safety. The focus shifted to COVID-19 as systems throughout the country pivoted to deal with the safe transportation of students during a pandemic. The advisory committee is now returning to discussions of broader pupil safety strategies.



Review of Charter Schools

CSBA has reviewed the situation throughout the country related to charter schools as well as other independent schools. As definitions and support of charter or voucher schools look different in provinces and territories across the country, we sought a better understanding to respond should growth occur that dilutes funding for public education.

Student Representation

CSBA is collaborating with the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO) in the revision of an overview of student representation across Canada. With the collaboration of the National School Boards Association, we are also revising a map that includes student representation in Canada and the US. As soon as these resources are finalized, they will be available on the CSBA website.



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