

# President's Bulletin

Winter 2021

## CSBA Board of Directors

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CSBA, Executive Director



It has been a year since COVID changed our way of life in Canada and around the world. While many things are different, one thing that has remained the same is the dedication and commitment to education shown by teachers, staff and trustees. In the face of immense challenge, our education partners have risen to the occasion and continued to provide education to students across the country. I am incredibly proud of the work that has been done to ensure students continue to receive an education in our system.

While in person meetings have stopped, board and committee work has continued. Since our AGM in October, the executive committee has continued to meet every couple of weeks. It has been a pleasure

to begin work with Carolyn Broady as our new vice president. In spite of COVID consuming enormous time and energy for school board trustees and school system leaders, we continue to make progress with association priorities and partnerships.

In November we held a Special General Meeting to approve the Constitution and By-Laws for our association. I would like to thank everyone who attended, and give a special thanks to the Governance Work Team and our consultant, Judy White, for their work and support on this document. These are now available on our website.

The Executive Director and I met with NSBA President Charlie Wilson, Executive Director and CEO Anna Maria Chávez and Valerie Carty. They are interested in the CSBA work on Indigenous Education, and we are very proud to have Josh Watt, Executive Director of the Manitoba School Boards Association present to their Dismantling Institutional Racism in Education (DIRE) team in the near future. We are excited to share resources with the NSBA on such important topics. Alan Campbell and I will be presenting virtually at the NSBA 2021 Conference in April.

In her role as vice president, Carolyn Broady spoke at the virtual Fall General Meeting of the Alberta School Boards Association and I will be providing a video message at the Manitoba School Boards Association's Conference. I also had the pleasure of addressing trustees at our newest members Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario's (ACÉPO) Annual General Meeting, and I'm looking forward to British Columbia's event in April. It is always a great pleasure to connect with trustees across Canada.

I am very excited that the necessary work of our Anti-Racism strategy is moving forward. Additional details are included in this Bulletin.

I hope that everyone will be able to join the second Indigenous Leaders Panel, that will take place on March 11.

My thanks to those who placed nominations for the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Teaching. I am again pleased to participate on the selection committee as we honour the amazing work of teachers and early childhood educators in teaching and STEM. As always, I would like to thank our Board of Directors and members of our committees and work teams for their continued support. The work done by these individuals drives the organization and is providing strong advocacy and support of students and school boards across Canada.

Yours in education,

Laurie French



## Patrimoine canadien / Canada Heritage Project

CSBA is very proud of the recent awarding of the Heritage Canada grant from the Official Languages Support Program to our collaborative partnership with the Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones, Canadian Association of School System Administrators, and Regroupement national des directions générales de l'éducation. Funding has been awarded for the project entitled, "Developing a Database Related to Teacher Recruitment, Hiring and Retention in Minority French-Language Schools and in French Second Language Programs." The goal of this project is to collaboratively build a national database, that will inform priorities and funding allocation for French Minority Language Education and French Second Language programs. CSBA is excited to begin working with partners on this project.

This initiative is being managed by experienced Minority Language and Second Language leader, Mary-Ann Zauhar-Hiscock. We would like to acknowledge the shared leadership of Valérie Morand, Executive Director of the Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones and the Regroupement national des directions générales de l'éducation.

### CASSA and CSBA Collaboration

The Canadian Association of School System Administrators and CSBA continue to meet monthly with a focus on shared concerns related to COVID. The CSBA is also excited to be working with CASSA for the first time on a shared Congress and National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education 2021 under the leadership of the Quebec English School Boards Association.

### Congress and National Gathering 2021

CSBA is pleased to be working with QESBA and CASSA on the planning and development of the 2021 National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education and Congress. This will be a virtual event filled with professional development opportunities for members. The theme for the 2021 event is "Equity and Inclusion for Student Well-Being." The event will take place from July 7-9, 2021. Day one will focus on Anti-Racism, day two on School Mental Health, and day three on Indigenous Education. Details are available on the CSBA website.

### Indigenous Leaders Panel

Join trustees from across the country for an interesting and informative virtual panel discussion with Indigenous leaders on building strategic relationships. Indigenous leaders will share how organizations and school boards can build authentic connections that support all students.

Panelists:

- Mary Culbertson, Treaty Commissioner for Saskatchewan
- Colleen Macpherson, Board Chair of Saskatoon Public School Division
- More to be confirmed

Discussion topics include:

- Making connections: How to use those relationships to support achievement for all students, specifically Indigenous students?
- What can organizations/school boards do to allow voice to come through?
- Relationships: Who do we talk to? What are strategic partnerships? How do we build strategic partnerships with Indigenous leaders?
- Connections between teachers and Indigenous Communities. Connections at the governance level - between school boards/trustees and Indigenous communities. Just do it!! Reach out and don't be afraid.
- Why do we have trouble making connections?

Date: March 11, 2021

Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm EST

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82273499805>

## Committee & Work Team Updates

### Health Education Work Team:

The CSBA website is currently being reviewed by members of the Health Education Work Team to ensure the material is up to date and accurate. Revisions will include the addition of a section on mental health.

The Work Team continues to be active in other national student health related groups including Canadian Healthy School Standards, Outdoor Play Canada and the Canadian School Mental Health Leaders Network. These connections allow CSBA to provide important information on student health to our members.

### Indigenous Education Committee:

The Indigenous Education Committee has continued to meet virtually with work advancing by members from across the country. With support from the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, a second Indigenous Leaders Panel is planned for March. SSBA will also be sharing their Framework of Responsibility with CSBA members when it is completed later this year to further the building of relationships and meaningful partnerships.

A resource guide is being put together including BCSTA's framework governing public education and First Nations relationships, a national document produced by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, along with some local tuition and structural agreements as collected by Manitoba School Boards Association.

### Anti-Racism Work Team:

The Anti-Racism Work Team met multiple times since the fall and has set priority areas approved by the Board of Directors. The plan involves working with external experts to engage in deep review and recommendations for change. Specifically, Phase one includes:

- A public acknowledgement of systemic racism and the need for deep institutional review and change;
- A review of CSBA policies, processes and structures that examine inherent bias and practices that perpetuate racism in education;
- The development of an inventory of anti-racism resources;
- Presentation of findings and recommendations at the 2021 Congress and National Gathering for sharing with Boards; and
- Phase 2, which will begin in July 2021, will result in the development of online professional learning modules for trustees and boards.

### Advocacy Committee:

National partnerships with organizations such as the Canadian Association of School System Administrators have proven to be an effective advocacy effort to promote public education. The CSBA has also been keenly following and supporting the work being done in Manitoba to promote the importance of governing school boards.

With COVID still affecting travel and face-to-face meetings, this year's advocacy event will take place virtually to engage key Federal Ministers on issues of shared importance to education.

**Check us out online!**



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

