

President's Bulletin

Winter 2022

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CSBA, Executive Director



Another calendar year has come and gone, and Trustees continue to support students and schools in local communities through a global pandemic. Across Canada, educators and support staff have continued to work in unprecedented conditions to ensure students receive their education. We have seen school districts and provincial/territorial departments of education pivot multiple times to offer virtual learning, in-school learning, and hybrid models. One thing that has remained consistent throughout these changes is the dedication to students.

The Board of Directors continues to meet primarily online. I am most pleased that we were able to meet in person in October 2021 and

proud of the amount of work that is being done virtually. The Board as a whole and our work teams and committees have maintained momentum and are making progress moving forward the goals set out in our strategic plan.

CSBA is developing a new strategic plan for 2022-2025. At the February 2022 meeting, the Board of Directors approved four priority areas: Indigenous Education; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Advocacy; and Comprehensive School Health. Committees and work teams will develop goals, actions and measures within their mandates as well as any financial implications for 2022-2023 to continue to advance the key work. The Board of Directors will also consult with member associations to ensure national work is aligned with that of the associations and their membership.

Particularly important is the research being done in partnership with the University of Regina's Faculty of Education through which the Centre for Educational Research, Collaboration, & Development (CERCD) who will conduct research and action Phase 2 of the CSBA's anti-racism strategy. Phase 1 included self-assessments of the CSBA Board of Directors and a review of CSBA Policies. Phase 2 will include a policy implementation plan, self-assessments for member associations, a national campaign aimed at increasing diversity in elected school boards, and the development of learning modules. The CSBA is looking forward to working with Dr. Jerome Cranston, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Dr. Andrea Sterzuk and their team.

Another significant research project is underway by members of Western University's Faculty of Education. The CSBA has contracted Dr. Katina Pollock and her team to examine governance models in public education throughout Canada and the impact of the loss of local democratic voice in some areas. They have selected six provinces and territories to review, Nova Scotia, North West Territories, Quebec, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. This research will include interviews and focus groups with various education partners throughout the country.

CSBA and the Comprehensive School Health Work Team are partnering with BUNYAAD Public Affairs on a substance use prevention initiative. The BC Ministry of Health, in partnership with the BC Ministry of Education and the BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction, has funded the "Enhancing Substance Use Prevention in BC Schools" project. This project aims to increase the use of evidence-based, curriculum-aligned approaches to address youth substance use in BC K-12 schools. CSBA would be involved on a national level with the goal of expanding the project outside of BC. CSBA will assist in knowledge mobilization for the project. Given the importance of substance use among students and the opioid crisis, the CSBA is pleased to be working on this initiative aimed at enhancing prevention practices in schools.

There are multiple education partners across the country who collaborate with CSBA on various

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initiatives and learning opportunities. Recently there has been interest with plans for a National Table on Education. Later in this edition of the President's Bulletin you will see updates on collaborations with education partners.

The CSBA will present on Indigenous Education at the National School Boards Association in early April. A panel of experts representing CSBA, the Assembly of First Nations, SSBA, OPSBA, and BCSTA will be presenting our work in this area.

As we venture into a new year, I would like to thank everyone for your continued support of the CSBA and your dedication to students. We look forward to seeing many of you at this year's CSBA National Gathering of Indigenous Trustees and Congress in Saskatoon July 6-8th – please find details on our website. Here's hoping 2022 is a year of health, growth and development for all.

Yours in education,



Laurie French, President

CSBA Website Updates

The CSBA website will be getting an overhaul in the coming months! The new design will allow for easier access to documents with a streamlined menu and stronger search function. As the CSBA becomes involved in more projects and collaborates with additional partners, the need for an easy to navigate catalogue of information and documents became evident.

We are looking forward to offering more content and resources to our members, and to having the website use a translation function for our Francophone colleagues. Please continue to follow and share our social media updates.

Congress and National Gathering 2022

The 2022 National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress will take place in Saskatoon July 6 - 8, hosted by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association. The theme, "Local Voices, Local Choices: Education Belongs to Community," will feature keynote presentations by Chief Cadmus Delorme, Anna Maria Tremonti, and Olympian Brigette Lacquette. There will be a call for presentations in the near future. Program details, registration and hotel links will be available very soon.



Committee and Work Team Updates

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee has been preparing for the 2022 National Education Advocacy Event in Ottawa during which board members will meet with members of parliament. While travel restrictions due to the pandemic have prevented an in-person event over the last two years, the committee is planning on an in-person event for this year to discuss shared education related priorities, including student health and the opioid crisis, Indigenous education, anti-racism work, French Minority and Second Language teacher shortages, and the importance of democratic voice in education.

While education is a provincial government responsibility, the Board of Directors feels it is important for federal elected officials to have a strong understanding of the issues that affect public education in the interest of our shared constituents.

Indigenous Education Committee

The Indigenous Education Committee is currently addressing a number of topics, including Indigenous languages, and the shortage of Indigenous teachers in Canada. This issue was brought to the CSBA by the Canadian Association of Principals, and we are looking forward to working on this together.

Darren McKee, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, presented to the Committee and the Board on their responsibility framework. This framework is being developed with collaborative input from many leaders, including the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, that includes actions, measures and responsibilities for Indigenous education. The CSBA is very grateful to SSBA for sharing this work.

In order to advance the Indigenous Education work and to ensure support and monitoring of actions related to the TRC Calls to Action, the Board approved funds to contract a dedicated Indigenous Education Lead. The Committee will soon review proposals for recommendation to the Board.

Anti-Racism Work Team

There is significant work underway with the Anti-Racism Work Team. The Work Team met in October and received updates from the research team at Regina University on their work on Phase 2 of the CSBA Anti-Racism Strategy.

On February 10, 2022, the CSBA and the University of Regina's Faculty of Education issued a joint press release to announce the work that will be done to advance anti-racism policies and initiatives in education. Phase 2 of the Anti-Racism Strategy will see the development of a plan to implement recommendations from Phase 1, self-assessment documents for member associations and school boards, a national campaign to increase the diversity of school boards, and governance and trustee learning modules. The goal is to develop policies and procedures that will increase awareness of the systemic racism in Canada that continues to disadvantage students who are Indigenous, Black or otherwise racialized.

"In response to the momentum around acknowledging and seeking to address systemic racism in Canadian society, the Faculty of Education — whose commitments are fundamentally grounded in the belief that schools can be incubators for truly just and pluralistic societies — is grateful to be able to partner with the Canadian School Boards Association," says Dr. Jerome Cranston, Dean of the Faculty of Education and principal investigator for the research project.

The project will be supported by the newly formed Centre for Educational Research, Collaboration, & Development (CERCD), which was established, according to Dr. Andrea Sterzuk, Director of the CERCD, "to support educational researchers and research communities in conducting educational research and development projects that are meaningful to, and serve the needs of, diverse communities in local, provincial, national, and/or international contexts."

The project is currently underway and is scheduled to be completed in June, 2023. Click [HERE](#) to read the press release.

Strategic Planning Committee

In November, 2020, the CSBA Constitution was revised which included the vision and mission of the Association. These will be reviewed and revised as part of the Anti-Racism work.

Vision: The CSBA vision is excellence in public education achieved through democratically elected school boards.

Mission: The CSBA mission is to support the member school board associations; advocate for the collective interests of the Member Associations; and promote the value of democratically elected school boards.

Four key priority areas were identified for the 2022-2025 strategic plan:

- Advocacy
- Indigenous Education
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Comprehensive School Health

Committees and work teams meet regularly to advance their specific areas. Much of this work is and will continue to be highlighted in the President's Bulletin, and is reviewed by the Board of Directors. Each committee and work team has been tasked with developing goals, actions, measures and budget implications moving forward. The Board of Directors will use these details to create the 2022-2025 strategic plan, which will be vetted through member associations and then approved by the Board of Directors.

Comprehensive School Health Work Team

The Comprehensive School Health Work Team is currently partnering with BUNYAAD Public Affairs on a youth substance use initiative. CSBA is engaged in this work to bring a national perspective to expand the project to other provinces and territories, and to facilitate trustee professional learning as they support local communities.

The Work Team also continues to collaborate with partner organizations in the Canadian School Mental Health Leaders Network which provides shared learning and discussion with mental health experts. This has been a valuable network, providing meaningful engagement opportunities.

Emergent Issues Work Team

The Emergent Issues Work Team, through the Executive Director, will collaborate with the Canadian Association of Principals, Canadian Teachers Federation, Canadian Association of School System Administrators, the Regroupement national des directions générales d'éducation, the Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones and other national organization to explore a National Table on Education. This National Table on Education would build on and expand collaboration among organizations and work to ensure national action on key priority areas.

The Work Team continues to monitor and support the Canadian Heritage project aimed at the development of a national database. This database would allow school boards and ministries to collaborate in the creation and access to details related to the chronic shortage of French Minority Language and French Second Language teachers. The team has applied for a new project to continue the work to March 31, 2024.

Do you like us on Facebook? Do you follow us on Twitter?

Be sure to like, follow and share our social media accounts for news, information and updates from our organization and other education partners.



[@cdnsba](https://twitter.com/cdnsba)



[@cdnsba](https://www.facebook.com/cdnsba)

Studying in French means being supported to achieve success!

Your members' children have been accepted in a college or university for postsecondary studies in French, or they are considering this option but are still undecided? Reassure them and tell them they can do it! Those who chose this path confirm its value: studying in French also means benefitting from support that is made available to them, such as tutoring, mentoring, conversation groups or additional French courses. Smaller classes, as well as support from teachers and other students, will help them make progress.

Encourage them to pursue their postsecondary studies in French. It's rewarding to be bilingual!

Learn about the FSL bursary: [ACUFC.ca/FSLbursaries](https://acufc.ca/FSLbursaries)

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