

Spring/Summer
2022

President's Bulletin

CSBA Board of Directors

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CSBA, Executive Director



As another school year comes to an end, it's a wonderful time for students, families, educators, and education partners, although the closing of this school year is bittersweet for me as I wrap up my four terms as President.

This July at our Annual General Meeting during the National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress, a new President will be elected to our Board of Directors. It has been an honour and privilege to serve our membership and work with my dedicated peers on behalf of publicly elected school board Trustees and students throughout the country. We have seen many changes in education over the last few years, and I am confident the excellent work of the CSBA will continue.

At our most recent Board of Directors meeting, we had additional time together to meet with federal leaders. It was a very positive experience for everyone, and I'd like to thank the Ontario Public School Boards Association for their support while we were in Ottawa for the meetings. Members of our board met with Senators, Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Shadow Ministers and opposition critics to discuss common goals and priorities for public education. The meetings highlighted the many opportunities for collaboration and I look forward to the follow-up.

During the board meeting each of our committee and work team chairs reported on activities and presented recommendations to the Board.

Our Indigenous Education committee coordinated a session by Daniel Brant and Associates during the board meeting. Presidents and Executive Directors shared their experiences, advancements, and challenges at the provincial level. The members also discussed common priorities for collaborative work at the CSBA level. Daniel and his team will use the information from the discussions to identify priorities, goals, and actions for the CSBA, in support of member associations.

The "Putting Data to Work – Faisons parler les données" initiative is developing well under the supervision of Mary-Ann Zauhar Hiscock, Project Manager, and Brigitte Cyr, database expert from le CLÉ. They provided directors with an overview of the national database, which is foundational to quantitative data on the French teacher shortage. This initiative is another excellent example of collaboration between education partners as it involves the CSBA, the Canadian Association of School System Administrators, the Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones and the Regroupement national des directions générale de l'éducation.

As we head off into summer vacation, once again I would like to thank all of our members and trustees for their support throughout the year. During my time as President, I have felt inspired by the commitment of so many education partners who are dedicated to providing the best possible education for our students. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at this upcoming [CSBA National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress in Saskatoon July 6-8th – please find details on our website](#). My best wishes and sincere thanks for all you do in support of students and public education.

Yours in education,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie French". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

Laurie French



CSBA Website Updates

The new CSBA website is live! The revised design features an easy to navigate menu, with a stronger search function. The work of our association, along with the many collaborations, will be more accessible to members and the public who are looking for valuable information on public education and governance in Canada.

We will continue to develop more content and resources for our members. We are also pleased with the translation function for our Francophone colleagues. Please continue to follow and share our social media updates.

[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.

National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education & CSBA Congress



July 6-8, 2022

National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress

The 2022 National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress is coming up quickly! This July members and education partners from across the country will come together in Saskatoon for three days of professional development 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 Brigitte Lacquette. Content will cover three key CSBA initiatives: Anti-Racism, Advocacy Research, and Putting Data to Work – Faisons parler les données.

Do not miss out on this excellent professional development and networking opportunity. We can not wait to see everyone again! For more information, and to register, [visit the conference website](#).

Local Voices, Local Choices: Education Belongs to Community

2022

Committee & Work Team Updates

Comprehensive School Health Work Team

The Comprehensive School Health Work Team has continued to meet online to further advance our strategic plan priorities. The CSBA is working to bolster the influence and breadth of the mental health network to support students and education staff. There is also continued focus on substance use/abuse and addictions.

The work with Bunyaad Public Affairs is in development as we learn more about the use of cannabis, opioids, prescription drugs and vaping. The work team has also been leading advancements in collaborative work with the National School Mental Health Leadership Network and our advisory role to Physical and Health Education Canada.

Emergent Issues Work Team

The Emergent Issues Work Team is working on a review and revision of the CSBA membership categories and options with the goal of being more inclusive.

Throughout the pandemic we were reminded of the importance of broadband connectivity. The work team identified this as a priority for discussions with federal leaders.

The work team is pleased with the progress being made on the Putting Data to Work – Faisons parler les données initiative. Partnerships are developing nicely among the CSBA, the Canadian Association of School System Administrators, the Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones and the Regroupement national des directions générale de l'éducation. The team is also reaching out to Ministries who are also interested in this data to collaborate and inform them of the project.

The initiative led to the development of a user-friendly web-based infrastructure designed not to duplicate information that has already been collected. No personal data will be collected, and this will not be onerous for school system HR and IT staff. The pilots are currently progressing well, and once fully established, the system can be used for collection and sharing of data related to other common priorities.

Indigenous Education Committee

The Indigenous Education Committee has contracted Daniel Brant and Associates. The Board of Directors held a work session with Daniel and his team during the May meetings, and looks forward to the feedback on the discussions. We are grateful to Josh Watt and Darren McKee for agreeing to serve as the steering committee for the ongoing work.

The committee has finalized details for the Indigenous Leadership Award, which will be launched at the upcoming Gathering and Congress in July. The first award will be presented at the 2023 Gathering and Congress.

Anti-Racism Work Team

The Anti-Racism Work Team continues to work on Phase 2 of the CSBA Anti-Racism Strategy with a research team from the University of Regina's Faculty of Education, Centre for Educational Research, Collaboration and Development. We are currently awaiting a decision on a joint grant application to the Canadian Race Relations Foundation to further advance this work, and a joint application with Alberta School Boards Association for funding from Canada Post. We are pleased to have members of the Centre for Educational Research, Collaboration and Development presenting at the CSBA Congress this July.

One of the priorities was to have materials developed to encourage increased diversity among school board candidates for upcoming elections. Posters and messages were distributed to member associations, and we hope to see more diverse representation around board tables in the near future.

Strategic Planning Committee

The Board has confirmed four strategic priorities for 2022-2024: Local Democratic Voice in Education/Advocacy; Indigenous Education; Comprehensive School Health; and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Committees and work teams are developing goals and actions. Delegates at the 2022 Congress and Gathering will be asked to provide feedback on the priority areas.

Congress Policy Review Ad Hoc Committee

Formed by board motion, the Congress Policy Review Ad Hoc Committee was established to review the current guidelines for the National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress, and to bring recommendations to the Board.

The committee reviewed Policy 1.4 Congress and National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education, Policy 2.5 Revenue Generation, and Policy 3.2 Partnerships and Endorsements. The committee recommended some administrative changes, as well as an update to the compensation formula for host associations. It was passed by the Board of Directors that the first \$25,000 of profit from a National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress will go to the host organization, with any profit above that being split 50% CSBA and 50% host organization.

Advocacy Committee

The most recent Advocacy Committee meeting was largely focused on planning for the Federal Advocacy Event in Ottawa. From May 15 – 18, members of the Board of Directors met with Senators, Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Members of parliament and Shadow Ministers and opposition critics to discuss shared education priorities.

Members engaged in very productive meetings with representatives of various federal departments, including Indigenous Services; Crown-Indigenous Relations; Official Languages; Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship; Housing; Diversity and Inclusion; Canadian Heritage; Mental Health and Addictions; Health; and Sport. Meetings were held with Senators who have particular interests in education, such as Senator Dr. Stan Kutcher who works in youth mental health.

Discussions largely focused on the importance of democratic representation, equity, diversity and inclusion, Indigenous education, comprehensive school health, French teacher recruitment and retention, mental health and addictions, Copyright, and Immigration. While education is a provincial responsibility, everyone who met agreed there is room for collaboration amongst different levels of government to improve education for students in Canada. Overall, the meetings were positive and productive, with most leaders asking for follow-up and continued collaboration. Many who were not available to meet during this time have asked to schedule virtual meetings.

We would like to thank l'Association des commissions scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO) Association for their support while we met as a Board and with federal leaders in Ottawa.

We await an opportunity to provide input to the Nova Scotia school system governance review and are encouraged with the introduction of a private members bill to increase the authority and autonomy of minority language families to govern the education of their children. The confirmation of support for school boards in Manitoba is great news for democratic voice. This provides a wonderful example of the results of grassroots efforts to ensure citizens understand the importance of local voice and the vital role of trustees.



CSBA Board Members with Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health, Élisabeth Brière



CSBA Board Members with Sénateur Jean-Guy Dagenais

A bursary as a gift for graduating

Congratulations to your students for their diploma! In September, they will begin an exciting new journey in a postsecondary setting. Studying in French in a college or university will bring them several professional benefits in their future career. Encourage your students to give themselves a present, they deserve it! Let them know about the [bursary for postsecondary studies in French as a second language](#).



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