



# CSBA President's Bulletin

Spring 2023



## Featured Photo

L-R: Alan Campbell, CSBA President, Carolyn Broady, CSBA Vice-President, Minister of Education Wayne Ewasko and Mike Roberts, CSBA Executive Director

Members of the CSBA executive met with the Honourable Wayne Ewasko, Minister of Education while holding board of directors meeting in Winnipeg. During the meeting they discussed CSBA priority areas such as copyright legislation, internet access in remote and rural communities, national truth and reconciliation initiatives and teacher immigration. While the minister's portfolio is provincial in scope, the issues discussed were of a national nature.

The executive was pleased to have the opportunity to hold the meeting with Minister Ewasko, and look forward to future meetings with other provincial leaders.

## Social Media

**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



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## ***Message from the President***

I am happy to be sharing the first President's Bulletin for 2023. It's hard to believe how much has happened around the world during the past three years. In March of 2020 we were hearing about a new virus that was spreading rapidly, creating confusion and prompting strict public health measures. In the weeks that followed, we saw the resilience and adaptability of our educators and education partners. The world was in lockdown, but we knew that students across the country needed to continue learning. Remote learning platforms and curriculum were established and everyone did their very best to support students. It was a hectic time in education.

From the uncertainty of the pandemic, we saw numerous gaps in education become glaringly obvious. The Canadian School Boards Association has vocally supported the need for improved connectivity in communities. We continue to call on elected officials and levels of government to make this a priority as it directly affects the delivery of quality public education.

Other inadequacies were also highlighted during the pandemic, including youth mental health supports. The CSBA Comprehensive School Health Work Team has made mental health a priority, and has had the opportunity to speak to senior government officials federally and at the provincial levels about this vital service. We will continue this work.

The work of the CSBA would not be possible without the expert support of our Executive Director. In November, Nancy Pynch-Worthylake took a leave of absence to fill a role in the education sector of her home province of Nova Scotia, and Mike Roberts joined us as interim Executive Director. Mike is a familiar face for many as he retired from the British Columbia School Trustees Association as CEO. The transition has been very smooth, and we are looking forward to working with Mike over the next year.

Since the start of the 2022-23 school year, I have had the opportunity to meet virtually and in person with a number of member associations and education partners. A particular highlight was the opportunity to attend the BCSTA New Trustee Orientation & Academy in Vancouver in early December 2022. Much like my own province of Manitoba, BC had trustee elections in the fall of 2022 and it was so uplifting to engage with the hundreds of new and returning trustees to learn about the various priorities for both local boards in BC, but also the various provincial priorities of BCSTA.

As you read through the bulletin you will learn about the work being done by our committees and work teams. During our most recent board of directors' meetings in Winnipeg in February, I was reminded yet again of the level of commitment our members have to supporting students and public education in Canada. As the President of Manitoba School Boards Association, I was proud to host our CSBA board at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, along with an incredible visit to Agowiiwinan Centre at The Forks, which is a new immersive education experience created by the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba.

I am proud to be among these advocates, and I appreciate all of the work being done not only by our board of directors, but by the provincial associations as well.

Please enjoy this edition of the bulletin.

Regards,

Alan Campbell, President



# Governance & Association Updates

The CSBA is very pleased to have the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial from Nova Scotia joining our membership. Since the dissolution of English governing school boards in Nova Scotia, and subsequently the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, the CSAP has not been involved with the CSBA. We look forward to working with the Acadian school board going forward, and having their input at our meetings in May.

The Board of Directors is currently reviewing committee and work team structures and terms of reference. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our ability to meet in person as a board of directors was limited. This required us to split some of our core work into work teams. We are now looking forward to returning to more in-person meetings, allowing our board of directors to tackle important priority areas together as a group.

## Putting Data to Work - Faisons parler les données



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## Putting Data to Work

[The Putting Data to Work](#) researchers presented a fulsome update to the Board of Directors. The team will have an information kiosk at the upcoming CSBA Gathering and Congress in Banff, and is also looking forward to presenting their work to the Council of Ontario Directors of Education. They have already attended other education partners events, such as the Alberta School Boards Association fall general meeting.

A reminder of why we are “Putting data to work”

- Predictability: Reliable recruitment and retention trends will allow human resources to confidently make projections for future hiring.
- Continuum: Accurate data will inform and support the professional continuum from teacher education to teacher retention.
- Reliability: Standardizing data will increase their value and reliability for school systems.
- Funding: Quantitative data will influence decision making in the allocation of government funding.

Member associations and education partners interested in learning more about the “Putting Data to Work” initiative are welcome to reach out to Mary-Ann Zauhar-Hiscock, Project Manager, at [mazauhar@gmail.com](mailto:mazauhar@gmail.com)



# ***Committee & Work Team Updates***

## ***Advocacy Committee***

The Advocacy Committee has been focusing on the annual Ottawa advocacy event. CSBA priority areas are the main items identified for discussion with elected and senior government officials during the meetings. The CSBA has been pleased to have the opportunity to meet with numerous individuals during our time in Ottawa in the past, and looks forward to continuing the work.

Priority areas identified include, but are not limited to:

- Youth mental health
- Truth and reconciliation
- Connectivity and equity of access for rural communities
- Universal food and nutrition programs

## ***Anti-Racism Work Team***

The Anti-Racism Work Team was pleased to have Dr. Jerome Cranston from the University of Regina present at the February board of directors meeting. His presentation was a highlight of the meeting where he shared information on the research being done to support the Anti-Racism Strategy. The work team will meet again when the full report is received.

Dr. Cranston also facilitated a professional development session for the board of directors. The presentation titled, *“Confronting Systemic Racial Injustice in the Education System,”* asked directors, what can school boards do to champion racial equity, anti-racism and anti-oppressive education? The question prompted valuable discussion among the board, and opportunities for everyone to learn from each other and Dr. Cranston.

## ***Indigenous Education Committee***

The Indigenous Education Committee is developing the CSBA reconciliation award, which will be presented at the 2023 Gathering and Congress in Banff in July.

The committee and the board of directors are very excited to continue working with Daniel Brant & Associates and receiving the results of their research.

They have developed and distributed a national survey on the progress on Indigenous issues by boards of education and school boards in each province. The survey timeline was extended to March 24th to allow for more participation from members across the country. There will be more outreach to ensure the survey has been well distributed. When the survey closes, the final results will be published and shared with the membership.



# ***National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education & CSBA Congress, 2023***

## **Registration is now open!**

The Alberta School Boards Association is welcoming trustees and education partners from across the country to Banff. This beautiful mountain town will serve as an inspirational venue as we gather in-person for renowned keynote speakers, exciting and relevant learning opportunities, as well as engaging workshops. Keynote speakers for the event include:

- **The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean**, the 27<sup>th</sup> Governor General, Commander-in-Chief of Canada | Co-Founder of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation
- **Naheed Nenshi**, Former Mayor of Calgary | Community Builder
- **Dr. Shelly Niemi**, Director of Indigenous Education, Greater Victoria School District No. 61
- **Riaz Meghji**, Human Connection Expert | Author of *Every Conversation Counts*

The early bird registration fee of \$950 is available until March 23, 2023. The registration fee includes:

- Keynote speakers;
- Professional learning sessions and workshops; and
- Refreshments during breaks, as well as three breakfasts, three lunches and one dinner.

After March 23, the registration fee is \$1050. The final deadline to register is June 2, or when registration is full. No refunds or cancellations will be issued after June 2. If you have not already done so, we encourage you to make air travel and ground transportation arrangements as soon as possible as Calgary and Banff are popular tourist destinations in July. We also invite you to explore Banff during your stay.

Additional event details, including the link to registration, experiences, optional excursions and some helpful resources to help you plan are available on the [CSBA Congress website](#). Please check the website regularly for updates.



# ARE YOUR STUDENTS READY FOR NEXT YEAR?



BURSARIES  
FOR POST-SECONDARY  
STUDIES  
IN FRENCH  
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE



ACUFC

Canada

## Have your students already chosen their college or university for the next school year?

Your students will soon complete their high school studies in French as a second language and intend to apply for college or university in Canada. Did you know that 26 Canadian post-secondary institutions provide bursaries in 2023-2024 for French-language study programs? Invite your students to see if they are eligible and whether the FSL bursary is offered by their chosen college or university.

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

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



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