

CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN



Fall, 2023

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Mike Roberts, CSBA, Interim Executive Director

The CSBA extends best wishes to QESBA President Dan Lamoureux and QESBA Executive Director Russell Copeman, who are both retiring this fall.

Thank you for your dedication and work over the years.

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Message from the President

On behalf of the CSBA Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that our recent advocacy event in Ottawa on October 3 – 5, 2023 was very successful.

In all, our delegation formally met with four Senators, fifteen Members of Parliament, as well as with representatives of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). Informally, we also had the pleasure of “bumping into” the Honourable Greg Fergus, the new Speaker of the House of Commons in front of Centre Block just prior to his very first Question Period in his new role.

The CSBA has valued these relationship-building opportunities in Ottawa for a number of years. As our group of board members and association representatives from across the country dispersed into our strategically selected smaller groups for each meeting, and then subsequently debriefed throughout the unseasonably hot days in Ottawa, there was a palpable sense of cautious optimism about what seems to be a shift in how school boards are received by our federal government colleagues.

Gone are the days when the introductory comments from an MP sounded like, “Education is a provincial priority – why are you here?” Or, “I’m not sure if we can do much for you, have you talked to your local Minister of Education?”

For many years now, we have learned from our experiences in Ottawa and adapted the planning for each subsequent annual event accordingly. Those with whom we are scheduled to meet are provided details on the CSBA strategic priorities in advance, and our own speaking notes are tailored to ensure that both parties walk away from the discussion feeling optimistic about further collaboration.

On matters related to Indigenous education, diversity, equity and inclusion, comprehensive school health and of course, advocacy for locally elected school boards, time and again we were able to highlight important opportunities for continued engagement and partnerships between school boards and provincial and federal governments.

We will be deliberate in sharing out more details with CSBA members in the coming weeks and months as the work continues to flow from our 2023 federal advocacy event.

Sincerely,



Alan Campbell



Outgoing Message from the Interim Executive Director

With my tenure as the Interim Executive Director at CSBA coming to a close, I wanted to extend a huge thank you to the Board of Directors and general membership of the Association for their support over the past eleven months. It's been an honour to work with such a dedicated group who are committed to improving public education across Canada. Your tenacity and commitment to community service are certainly inspirational.

While the political landscape and organization of K-12 education varies from province to province, the importance of high-quality public education for all students remains consistent. The tireless work of school trustees and their boards helps ensure our schools remain world leaders in this regard, but also provide local decision making at the community level. Something that is valued by parents as well as other residents.

Nancy Pynch-Worthylake will be returning to her role of Executive Director on November 1st. We all welcome her back and entrust the day-to-day work of the Association in her very capable hands. She will no doubt continue to support your Board of Directors in growing your Association to be an even stronger national voice for school boards across Canada.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this important role. Keep up the great work, and don't forget, it's all about the kids.

Regards,

Mike Roberts



CSBA in Ottawa

From October 3 to 5, members of the CSBA Board of Directors met with multiple Members of Parliament, Senators, and senior staff to discuss shared public education priorities. These meetings have developed over the last few years into meaningful conversations between elected officials.

- Senator Jane Cordy
- Senator Stan Kutcher
- Senator Marty Deacon
- Senator Bev Busson
- MP Karen Vecchio
- MP Marcus Powlowski
- MP Sonia Sidhu
- MP Mike Lake
- MP Michelle Ferreri
- MP Larry Brock
- MP Nicki Ashton
- MP Jamie Schmale
- MP Bonita Zarrillo
- MP Kevin Waugh



Fall 2023



Committee & Work Team Updates

Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee presented a draft strategic plan to the Board of Directors for review and approval. The board approved the plan and the Committee will now stand down until 2025 when it is renewed. The Board of Directors will work to implement the strategic plan.

A fulsome outline of the updated plan will be available on the CSBA website in the coming weeks.

Canadian School Boards Association: The national voice of democratically elected local school boards.

Vision Statement: Democratically elected local school boards achieving student success and well-being through diverse, equitable and inclusive public education.

Mission Statements:

- To support democratically elected school board associations and their members in achieving their mandates by providing leadership and learning opportunities.
- To champion the Truth and Reconciliations Commission's Calls to Action through public education.
- To advocate on national, collective interests in support of diversity, equity and inclusion and success for all students.
- To increase an understanding of, and advocate for, democratically elected local school boards.

Indigenous Education Committee

The Indigenous Education Committee will be meeting to create recommendations for the CSBA based on the work done by Daniel Brant and Associates. The Committee, along with the Board of Directors, are very excited about the research and recommendations coming from this in-depth work. The survey conducted will provide valuable information and insight for the Committee and CSBA as an organization to further advance the work to support Indigenous education in Canada.

Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

Stemming from conversations around the Board of Directors table, and with recommendations from Dr. Cranston, it has been decided to rename the Anti-Racism Work Team to be the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). This name better represents the work of the committee.

The Board of Directors would like to remind members of the excellent professional development opportunities developed by Dr. Cranston for trustees. The Equity and Racial Justice course through the University of Regina is available, and more information can be found [HERE](#).

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee presented the final audit report to the Board of Directors. The auditors provided a clean audit, finding no errors and giving no recommended changes.

The report is now available on the [CSBA website](#).

Comprehensive School Health Work Team

Work has centered on preparation for the upcoming Youth Mental Health conference in Toronto where CSBA will be a major contributor to the discussions. Participants will report back to the board after the event in late October 2023.

Governance Work Team

The Governance Work Team most recently developed a new membership category for smaller jurisdictions to become members of the CSBA. The Board of Directors was happy to welcome Conseil scolaire acadien provincial to the Association as an example of one of these smaller jurisdictions. The CSAP is the Acadian governing school board in Nova Scotia, providing French first language education.

The Work Team will soon begin the task of reviewing all CSBA committee and work team terms of reference.

National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education & CSBA Congress 2024

The Ontario Public School Boards Association will be hosting the 2024 National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education and CSBA Congress in Toronto!

The event is scheduled for July 3-5, 2024 and will be hosted at the Toronto Westin Harbour Castle Hotel. Registration and hotel reservations are scheduled to open in early February.

More information will be shared as the program develops, but you can reserve your rooms at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel now. See details on booking and special conference room rates on the [CSBA website](#).



ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

FNCSF Update

Valérie Morand has met with representatives of CSBA to discuss and strategize around the problem of recruiting French language teachers to Canada. In October she provided an overview of current efforts by the FNCSF to recruit new teachers overseas as well as the inherent problems with that process. It was agreed that there is mutual interest in regard to the recruitment and retention of French language teachers to most areas in Canada.

The CSBA will continue to liaise with the FNCSF on this issue and will look for opportunities to collaborate on future teacher recruitment initiatives as well as other areas of mutual interest.

Putting Data to Work Update

The Putting Data to Work initiative has launched a campaign to attract pilot school systems to collect data. There have been many factors impacting priorities in school systems, some of which have had a tremendous impact on communities as a whole. To accommodate time and staffing constraints, the registration process has been streamlined and digitized.

The initiative has prepared access to the national database for each school system, developed graphic representations for cross-referencing our incoming data through a web portal, developed user-friendly access and ensured the potential for growth. These tools are important for both engagement and data collection.

Putting Data to Work is ready to collect data from small, medium and large school systems. There is currently a focus on data collection from francophone school systems with just over 85% participation so far.

The website portal will soon be ready to launch real time, up to the minute updates of our first integrated data. The password protected portal will be accessible to systems participating in data collection, and to all boards in the anglophone systems who volunteer to pilot the project. This is a significant milestone for the initiative, bringing the data collection and work to life.

The initiative has had the opportunity to present Putting Data to Work to many provincial associations and are looking forward to continuing this work, and sharing updates.



Fall is the season for FSL bursaries!

Fall is the season for a whole host of wonderful things – including FSL bursaries! If your former or current students recently started a postsecondary program in French, don't delay – tell them to submit a bursary application today! Visit [ACUFC.ca/FSLbursaries](https://acufc.ca/FSLbursaries) to find out how.

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