

Canadian School Boards Association



PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN

Spring 2025



The Canadian School Boards Association Board of Directors is excited to welcome Janet Stewart as the new Executive Director. Janet will work with Nancy Pynch-Worthylake to transition into the role this summer. Nancy will officially wrap up her time with CSBA in August.

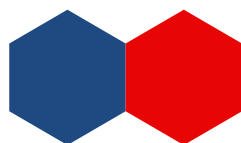
Janet's experience as a classroom teacher, school administrator, senior school district administrator, and chief operating officer of the BC Public School Employers' Association, provides her with a wealth of expertise in working with school boards as they carry out their mandates as the locally elected governors of public education. We are looking forward to working with Janet, and would like to thank Nancy for her significant contributions and expertise to the CSBA over the last seven years.

As you are aware by now, the Manitoba School Boards Association, as host of the 2025 CSBA Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education in Winnipeg, has made the important decision to shift this year's event to fully online format in response to the Manitoba Government's call for a reduction of non-essential travel to Manitoba while our province continues to battle out of control wildfires and seek temporary housing in hotels for over 21000 evacuees. We look forward to providing a fantastic two-day online learning opportunity, with many of the keynote speakers and professional development opportunities from the original in-person program. Visit www.winnipeg2025.ca to learn more.

At our meeting in February, the CSBA Board of Directors engaged in a valuable self-evaluation to assess our individual and collective efficacy as members of a diverse national team. This best practice for high-functioning boards is an important exercise for all to do from time to time, and we encourage our member associations and their member boards to do the same. The board reviewed the results at the May meeting and is using the feedback to continue effective collaboration on behalf of schoolboards throughout the country. Both the evaluation itself and the candid discussion around its results, serve to reinforce my strong sense of pride as the leader of this fantastic group.

In April the CSBA sent a strong delegation to the National School Boards Association Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where I had the privilege of once again this year, addressing the General Assembly as the President of CSBA – the longstanding international partner of the NSBA. With the significant challenges facing the American public education system and the state of the relationship between the leaders of our two sovereign nations, especially in early spring of this year, it was an important opportunity for us to bring a message of friendship, respect, empathy and collaboration to our fellow school board members in the United States.

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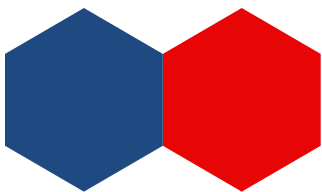
My colleagues from around the CSBA table will agree, that we were welcomed with open arms by our neighbours to the south, both in the enthusiastic response to my address to the General Assembly, but also through the impromptu greetings in the halls of the convention centre and the strong attendance and engagement at our CSBA PD session on the work of school boards in Canada.

Planning is well underway for our 2025 advocacy event in October in Ottawa. This annual event has increasingly helped the CSBA build important relationships with partners in the federal government. While public education is a provincial and territorial government responsibility, there are many Members of Parliament, Senators, Ministers, and senior civil servants who are interested in youth and education. Each year the CSBA Board of Directors sets priority areas to guide discussions and develop materials to support our work on Parliament Hill. Discussions are ongoing to refine these topics for the 2025 event, and we look forward to once again bringing the voice of school boards to Ottawa in the fall.

Sincerely,



Alan M Campbell, President



Alan Campbell, President
David Wasylciw, Vice President (YK1)

Renée St. Germain, AFN

Dr. Denis Labelle, ACÉPO
Isabelle Girard, ACÉPO

Marilyn Dennis, ASBA
Dr. Vivian Abboud, ASBA

Tracy Loffler, BCSTA
Trevor Davies, BCSTA

Michel Collette, CSAP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

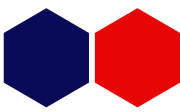
Sandy Nemeth, MSBA
Josh Watt, MSBA

Kathleen Woodcock, OPSBA
Stephanie Donaldson, OPSBA

Joe Ortona, QESBA
Dave Meloche, QESBA

Dr. Shawn Davidson, SSBA
Darren McKee, SSBA

Nancy Pynch-Worthylake, Executive Director



Strategic Plan Update

The CSBA Board of Directors has been working on developing the 2025 – 2030 Strategic Plan. This work provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments to date, and assess the direction in which we are headed.

Board members participated in group discussions to review the main pillars of the strategic plan, and determine how the association's values align with the strategic areas. We look forward to continuing this work and having an update in the fall.



Faisons parler les données – Putting Data to Work

There are now 26 school boards participating in the Putting Data to Work – Faisons parler les données initiative across Canada. The Francophone school board database is fully functional, and pilots are ongoing with English systems in British Columbia and Alberta.

A new professional development module and presentation on how to navigate the Putting Data to Work – Faisons parler les données platform are being developed for school system project lead teams and users. This is a very exciting milestone as the work advances and engages more front-line systems.

The initiative is grateful for the opportunity to attend and present at the Alberta School Boards Association Spring conference this year. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet trustees and education leaders, and encourage them to join the pilot project.

Analysis of data provided during this school year has begun, and we look forward to seeing the progress being made.

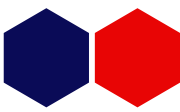


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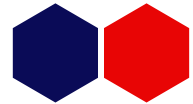


Pollock Report Update

The Pollock Report Ad Hoc Committee reviewed the report recommendations and endorsed the idea of differentiating operationalization of recommendations between national recommendations to be achieved by CSBA and recommendations that fall within the scope of member associations.

Of the 24 suggestions, six are directly related to advocating for democracy, three focus on how to involve families more, three on professional development, and three on communications. Some actions are specific to the provinces and territories, while many are for both CSBA and the member associations.

The Committee noted that the recommendations overlap with the work of the Indigenous Education Committee and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Work Team. The current CSBA strategic plan actions related to the Pollock Report have been attained, and new goals, actions and measures are recommended for inclusion in the next strategic plan.



People for Education – *The Education Promise*

The CSBA has recently joined The Education Promise, an initiative of People for Education. The Education Promise will bring together leaders in education, business, government and academia to strengthen public education across Canada.

Read their press release for more information:

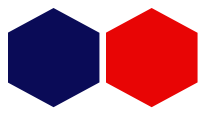
<https://peopleforeducation.ca/people-for-education-launches-bold-new-five-year-initiative-the-education-promise/>



This five-year initiative is bringing together multiple organizations who are invested in public education in Canada, such as UNICEF Canada, EdCan Network, the Canadian Teachers Federation, and the Students Commission of Canada.



CSBA—ACCCS 2025
JULY 2-5 | JUILLET 2-5 | WINNIPEG



2025 National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education & CSBA Congress

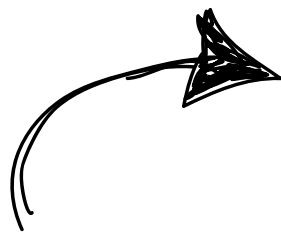
Since our last update and, as the wildfire situation in Manitoba continues to evolve, over 21,000 of our fellow residents have now been evacuated from their home communities.

Given this situation, Manitoba is no longer able to accommodate all evacuees in hotels and other temporary locations. Accordingly, on 9 June, the Manitoba Government has formally requested that all non-essential travel in/to Manitoba in the coming weeks cease, to ensure all possible hotel spaces are made available for displaced families.

To that end, the format of the 2025 CSBA Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education will move from our previously planned in-person gathering to a fully online and exceptional learning opportunity. A new program for the CSBA 2025 Online Experience will be sent in the coming days and we thank you for your patience as we finalize these details. Please continue to hold your calendars for July 3 and 4. It is our sincere hope that the new format will promote even wider access to the dynamic line-up of keynotes and workshops that we have planned for you.

Please know that these changes will make an important contribution to relief efforts for those affected by the wildfires across Manitoba. Our CSBA 2025 Online Experience will remain a signature learning and professional development opportunity and we look forward to having you join virtually for two days of impactful learning!

For more information and details on refunds, cancellations, and arrangements, [please visit the CSBA website.](#)



[Click here to watch the announcement from CSBA President Alan Campbell](#)



Council of Ministers of Education, Canada

CSBA President Alan Campbell and Executive Director Nancy Pynch-Worthylake had a productive meeting with Chantal LeClerc, executive director of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) at the end of February.

We were pleased to make connections with CMEC, and to hear they are particularly interested in the Putting Data to Work – Faisons parler les données initiative. There are significant overlaps among CMEC priorities and CSBA, and Ms. LeClerc strongly recommends board members identify and work with provincial and territorial champions who sit at CMEC tables.

The CSBA looks forward to fostering these relationships as part of our government relations and advocacy work in accordance with the strategic plan.

What is CMEC?

The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) is an intergovernmental body founded in 1967 by ministers of education to serve as:

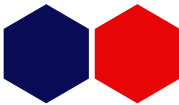
- a forum to discuss policy issues;
- a mechanism through which to undertake activities, projects, and initiatives in areas of mutual interest;
- a means by which to consult and cooperate with national education organizations and the federal government; and
- an instrument to represent the education interests of the provinces and territories internationally.

CMEC provides leadership in education at the pan-Canadian and international levels and contributes to the exercise of the exclusive jurisdiction of provinces and territories over education.

CMEC is governed by an Agreed Memorandum approved by all members. A Chair is elected every two years based on rotation among the provinces. The current Chair is the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education, Ontario. All 13 provinces and territories are members.

https://www.cmec.ca/11/About_Us.html

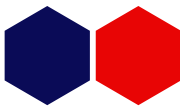
Committee & Work Team Updates



Governance Work Team

Working with the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Work Team, the Governance Work Team has revised Association policies to incorporate anti-racism changes recommended by the University of Regina in its final report.

The Board of Directors approved revisions to the Governance Work Team and Finance Committee Terms of Reference to be in line with the updated formatting. The CSBA Terms of Reference Template revisions were approved at a previous meeting to enhance clarity.



Comprehensive School Health Work Team

Comprehensive School Health remains a strategic priority for the CSBA, and has evolved over the last five years. The Work Team is now working to support school boards and education systems with student and staff mental health, vaping, food security, and social media safety.

Vaping is a serious health, addictions and environmental issue across the country. Statistics from Health Canada show vaping rates continue to rise, and schools continue to report numerous challenges with youth vaping in schools.

The Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) has been advocating for the provincial government to address youth smoking and vaping as a public health issue by:

- Continually reviewing and developing effective strategies to protect Alberta's youth from the harms of smoking and vaping; and
- Ensuring applicable legislation and regulation keeps pace with societal developments.

The CSBA will continue to advance this advocacy work federally, and are pleased to support the ASBA in this work.

Through the leadership of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), Stephanie Priest, Director General of the Centre for Mental Health and Well-Being and Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) staff members met with Kathleen Woodcock, Stephanie Donaldson, CSBA President Alan Campbell, and CSBA Executive Director Nancy Pynch-Worthylake. The discussions highlighted OPSBA's advocacy work related to the impact of social media on children and youth, and steps to take to amplify this work.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to speak to the broader work of the CSBA and its members and how to enhance ongoing collaboration with PHAC. The CSBA is grateful to OPSBA for their leadership on this file, and for working with our Association to advocate for this important issue nationally.





Bourses FLS de
3 000 \$

Un message pour les élèves et les étudiants qui étudieront au niveau postsecondaire cet automne: Si l'anglais est leur première langue officielle parlée, et qu'ils suivront au moins 50% de leurs cours en français, ils pourraient être admissibles à une bourse FLS de 3000 \$!

Partagez les détails de la bourse avec eux: [ACUFC.ca/boursesFLS](https://acu.fc.ca/boursesFLS)

A message for students who will study at the postsecondary level this Fall: If English is their first official language spoken and they will take at least 50% of their courses in French, they could be eligible for a \$3,000 FSL bursary!

Share the bursary details with them: [ACUFC.ca/FSLbursaries](https://acu.fc.ca/FSLbursaries)



\$3,000
FSL bursaries