

# Canadian School Boards Association

## PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN

December 2025



As we move from fall into winter and a New Year, I am pleased to share a sense of optimism and renewed energy across the Canadian School Boards Association. This has been a period marked by meaningful momentum—both in our national advocacy work and within the organization itself—as we continue championing the needs of publicly funded education systems across the country.

Our fall advocacy event was a highlight of the year, as always. The engagement, thoughtful dialogue, and strong presence from trustees demonstrated once again how powerful our collective voice can be. With a new federal government settling in, our conversations took on even greater significance. We are already adapting to shifts in timelines, priorities, and budget frameworks, and we remain committed to ensuring that the perspectives of school boards are fully represented in these evolving discussions.

Shortly after our fall board meeting, we welcomed encouraging news: permanent federal funding for the National School Food Program. This accomplishment reflects years of advocacy from many partners across the education community, and it is a development we celebrate wholeheartedly. Ensuring students have consistent access to nutritious food is foundational to their well-being and success, and we will continue to support the implementation of this important program.

Within CSBA itself, this fall has also brought a sense of creativity and forward movement. Work is well underway on our rebranding initiative, including a refreshed logo and a modernized website that will better reflect who we are today and where we are heading as a national association. We look forward to sharing these updates with you—they represent not only a visual change, but a renewed clarity in our mission and values.

I would also like to take a moment to honour a very special milestone from our Annual General Meeting: Nancy Pynch-Worthylake's induction as an Honorary Lifetime Member. Nancy's dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to student-centred public education and local governance have made a lasting impact on our association and on countless trustees across Canada. This recognition is richly deserved, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude.

Thank you to all trustees, directors, and partners for your ongoing collaboration and passion. Together, we continue to strengthen public education and build a brighter future for students in every region of the country.

Regards,

Alan Campbell, President

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Campbell, President

Dr. Shawn Davidson, Vice President (SSBA President)

Bram Lerat, AFN

Dr. Denis Labelle, ACÉPO

Isabelle Girard, ACÉPO

Marilyn Dennis, ASBA

Dr. Vivian Abboud, ASBA

Tracy Loffler, BCSTA

Trevor Davies, BCSTA

Michel Collette, CSAP

Sandy Nemeth, MSBA

Josh Watt, MSBA

Kathleen Woodcock, OPSBA

Stephanie Donaldson, OPSBA

Joe Ortona, QESBA

Dave Meloche, QESBA

Darren McKee, SSBA

Terry Brooks, YKI

Janet Stewart, Executive Director



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# Advocacy Meetings

In October 2025, the Board of Directors met with federal elected officials and senior leaders in Ottawa to discuss shared priorities regarding public education. The areas of focus included raising awareness of the importance of sustainable funding for the National School Food Program, promoting comprehensive school health, and the importance of supporting Indigenous, First Nations and Metis learners. Finally, conversations with representatives reinforced the importance of including local school Board voices in decision-making conversations about expanded infrastructure projects in communicates.

## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

- Richard Bragdon, MP, Conservative Party of Canada, New Brunswick
- Brendan Hanley, MP, Liberal Party of Canada, Yukon – Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs
- Mike Kelloway, MP, Liberal Party of Canada, Nova Scotia – Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Internal Trade
- Michael Kram, MP, Conservative Party of Canada, Saskatchewan
- Pauline Rochefort, MP, Liberal Party of Canada, Ontario – Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State
- Sonia Sidhu, MP, Liberal Party of Canada, Ontario

## SENATORS

- Marty Deacon, Ontario
- Mary Jane McCallum, Manitoba
- Kim Pate, Ontario
- Karen Sorensen, Alberta
- Judy White, Newfoundland and Labrador

## SENIOR STAFF

- Chris Knipe, Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure
- Stephanie Priest, Executive Director, Mental Health and Wellbeing Division, Centre for Health Promotion at Public Health Agency of Canada



# CSBA Logo Update – Adoption of the new logo

The CSBA is excited to announce a new logo to represent our organization. The journey to develop this new visual identity was taken collaboratively by our Board of Directors. Feedback received during the development process called for elements that represented student growth and success, unity and collaboration, and the vibrant diversity of Canadian youth that CSBA serves and represents. In the end, the Board agreed to adapt the logo representing three overlapping "C's".

Featuring three overlapping "C" s of gradually larger sizes, it represents students at distinct stages of their learning journeys; from their early and middle years through to senior grades and graduation. The transparent, overlapping colours symbolize strong unity of the CSBA's cross-Canadian membership and the beauty of diversity. Finally, the aperture-like arrangement reflects a focus on students, keeping their well-being at the center of CSBA's advocacy.



## Strategic Plan: 2026-2030 Updates

The 2026-2032 Strategic Plan was brought forward for review and approval by the Board. The presented plan incorporated suggestions from two previous rounds of edits. The strategic plan aims to reflect both continuity and evolution — drawing on the lessons of the past while charting a bold, inclusive future.

The Executive Director will now use this Strategic Plan as a guide in developing the CSBA's operational plan. This operational plan will include specific actions for each year to be built on over the next six years and best support the three priorities outlined in the strategic plan.

The new strategic plan defines the CSBA's mission and vision as follows:

**Mission:** To champion publicly funded, democratically governed education by supporting elected local school board associations in their leadership, advocacy, and commitment to equity, reconciliation, and well-being.

**Vision:** A country where democratically elected local school boards lead inclusive, responsive, and equitable public education systems, enabling every learner to thrive and every community to be represented.

The strategic plan further defines three intersecting priorities that will define and guide the CSBA's ongoing collective work:

- Advocacy and Public Leadership,
- Reconciliation and Indigenous Partnerships,
- Contextualizing Education within Health and Wellness.

# Pollock Report Follow-Up

The Board continues to review the progress on various items that were actioned following the Pollock report, following the application of recommendations at the jurisdictional and national levels. There has been good progress made on a number of recommendations in the individual member jurisdictions, and the Board is actively reviewing these to consider how they can now be applied at the national level. All recommendations from the report were considered in the production of the 2026-2032 Strategic Plan to ensure we continue to make progress on them as part of our strategic and operational goals.

## Committee Updates

### INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Indigenous Education Committee is implementing a Cross Canadian jurisdictional survey to identify the resources, tools, and approaches being used across jurisdictions to support the success of Indigenous learners. The survey questions were approved for use at the October Board meeting and will be sent to CSBA's member organizations to participate. The information will be collated for presentation in the July 2026 Trustee Gathering in Whistler, BC.

### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee brought several revisions to be made to policies in order to clarify the role of President and Vice-president in relation to orienting new CSBA Board members. The Board remains committed to strengthening internal relationships to strengthen the Association's national voice and will continue to examine other governance structures to reinforce the work of CSBA.

## Faisons parler les données Putting Data to Work

The number of school boards across Canada who are participating in the Putting Data to Work – Faisons parler les données initiative is expanding!

There are currently 26 school boards participating. Data from the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years is continuing to be uploaded and finalized, with complete data sets from more than 16 school boards so far. This fall, a new engagement campaign has been launched for Francophone school boards. Further resources for technical teams are also being developed and shared with boards as they join the initiative, helping make the initiative accessible to as many boards as possible. It is exciting to see the work on this initiative advance!



# \$3,000 FSL bursaries

New Year, new opportunities

Are your students pursuing or wishing to pursue postsecondary studies in French? Encourage them to start 2026 by applying for a \$3,000 FSL bursary.

For more info: [ACUFC.ca/FSLbursaries](http://ACUFC.ca/FSLbursaries)

Vos élèves ou étudiants poursuivent ou souhaitent poursuivre des études postsecondaires en français? Encouragez-les à commencer l'année 2026 en faisant une demande pour une bourse FLS de 3000 \$.

En savoir plus: [ACUFC.ca/boursesFLS](http://ACUFC.ca/boursesFLS)

# Bourses FLS de 3 000 \$

Nouvelle année, nouvelles opportunités