

Federation News

Freedom
Involves Secure
Alternatives

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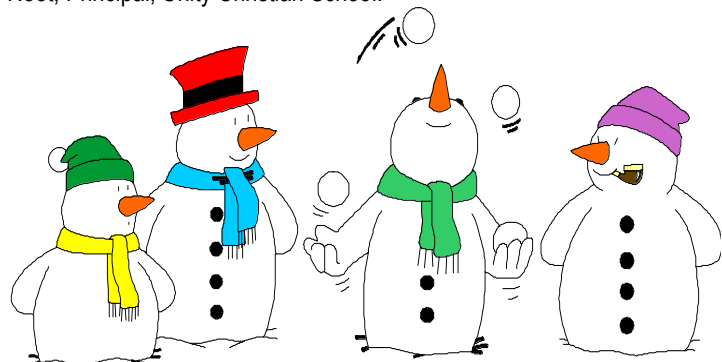
*The FISA office staff
wishes you and
yours all the joys
and blessings of
this festive
season*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Annual General Meeting of the FISA, held on November 28, 2007, the membership approved the audited financial statement for 2006-07, the budget for 2007-2008, and the actions and decisions of the Board of Directors to date. The meeting also received the report of the FISA President, Mr. Doug Lauson, printed in this issue of the *Federation News*.

FISA BOARD MEETING

At the Board meeting held immediately after the Annual General meeting on November 28 2007 Mr. Doug Lauson (Catholic Independent Schools) was re-elected as President; Mr. Henry Contant (Society of Christian Schools) was re-elected as vice-President; Ms. Marjorie Maclean (Associated Member Group) was re-elected as Secretary; Mr. Ray Sutton (Association of Christian Schools International) was re-elected as Treasurer; and Mr. Robin Hinnell (Independent Schools Association) was elected as an ex-officio officer. In addition to the officers, the following directors continue to serve you. **The Association of Christian Schools International BC:** Peter Froese, Superintendent, Mennonite Educational Institute; Mr. David Shinness, Principal, Highroad Academy. **The Associate Member Group:** Mr. Mark Evans, Bank officer; Mr. Harry Moes, Principal, Credo Christian High School; Rabbi Don Pacht, Principal, Vancouver Hebrew Academy; Mr. Lloyd Robinson, Superintendent, Seventh-day Adventist Schools; and Ms. Elizabeth Wilby, Ret'd Principal, Vancouver Waldorf School. **The Catholic Independent Schools:** Mr. Joe Colistro, Superintendent, Victoria Diocese; Mr. Richard Kohlen, Businessman. **Independent Schools Association of B.C.:** Mr. Hugh Burke, Head, Meadowridge School; Mr. Steve Hutchison, Head, St. John's School. **Society of Christian Schools:** Mr. Ariel De Jong, Lawyer; Mr. Ed. Noot, Principal, Unity Christian School.



ADMINISTERED GRANTS SERVICES OF FISA

The existence of the FISA and its credibility as the voice for independent schools in BC gives other agencies the confidence to use the FISA as the co-ordinating or distributing agency for grants they provide. The following were made available to independent schools in the 2006-07 school year.

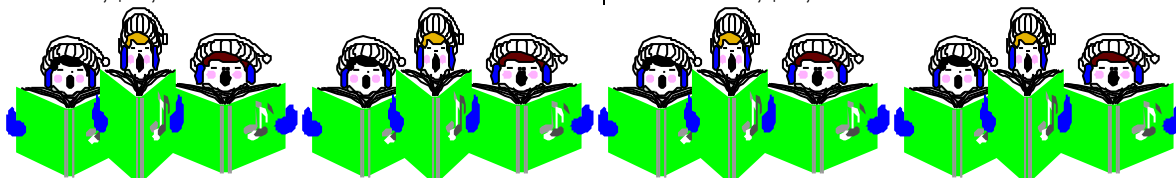
i) Artists in Education grants from the BC Arts Council and Vancouver Foundation through Art Starts, 54 schools, \$17,500.00

ii) French Language Basic Grants from the Federal Government through the Ministry of Education, all schools with French, \$265,155.00

iii) French Language Special Purpose grants from the Federal Government through the Ministry of Education, 28 schools, \$80,000.00

iv) Dogwood District Authority Awards from the Ministry of Education, 134 students, \$134,000.00

v) Social Services Tax Rebate from the Ministry of Finance, 34 schools, \$30,152.00



FISA PRESIDENT'S REPORT November 28, 2007

"We must recognize the full human equality of all our people - before God, before the law, and in the councils of government. We must do this not because it is economically advantageous - although it is; not because the laws of God and man command it - although they do command it; not because people in other lands wish it so. We must do it for the single and fundamental reason that it is the right thing to do."
Robert Kennedy

STATISTICS:

In 2006-07, the total number of independent students was 68,580 (including DL), an increase of 2,345 students (3.54%). The total number of public school students continues to decline as predicted, estimated at 572,150 FTE's. The FISA now represents 92% of the independent school enrolment in the province. Approximately 11% of all the school-going children in the province now attend independent schools. Operational funding (50% and 35%) to independent schools has increased by approximately \$22.53 million (11.63%) to \$216.23 million (\$196.89 million in per student operating grants to group 1 and 2 schools, \$19.34 million in special education grants). The increase is the result of the following factors: an increase in the per pupil cost for public schools, on which our 50% and 35% grants are calculated; an increase in enrolment; an increase in the number of special needs students served.

THE LAST YEAR IN SUMMARY:

- July 2006: Minister of Education confirms rights of independent schools to teach curriculum from a faith-based perspective

- September 2006: The FISA invited to join Social Justice 12 curriculum writing team
- October 2006: The FISA invited to attend Premier's Teachers' Congress
- October 2006: BCCT invites the FISA to attend a dialogue re: Standards of the Teaching Profession
- November 2006: UBC School Leadership Centre invites dialogue with other stakeholders to address the induction, mentoring and succession of teachers new to the profession
- November 2006: Teachers' Congress with Premier and Minister of Education
- November 2006: Minister Bond visits King David High, St. Francis Xavier, Vancouver Christian & Langley Christian
- November 2006: FISA begins TILMA discussions with BCCT and Ministry of Education
- December 2006: FISA website redesign begins
- December 2006: Criminal Records check able to be done online
- January 2007: School Leadership Center (UBC) on Mentorship

- January 2007: Summit on Learners & Literacy
- February 2007: Throne and Budget Speeches
- March 2007: Federal Government rules that student Bursaries no longer a taxable benefit
- March 2007: FISA works with BCCT on Complaint Process
- April 2007: BCSTA Passes motion to end independent schools funding at their AGM
- April 2007: CAPSLE Conference in Vancouver
- May 2007: FISA Ombudspersons' Committee meets to review role of Ombudsperson
- May 2007: FISA examines effects of Bills 10, 16, 20, 21 & 22
- June 2007: Ministry/FISA Leadership Conference in Victoria
- June 2007: Deans of Education and BCELNET
- September 2007: Provincial Regional Tour

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION:

The Federation continues to maintain an excellent relationship with the various departments in the Ministry of Education. As the voice of independent schools, the FISA continues to be consulted by the various stakeholder groups involved in education, viz. BCCT, EAC, OIIS, BCSTA, ABCDE, etc. The continued dialogue further establishes the FISA's role in shaping and enhancing the direction of education in the province.

The Federation, through its Executive Officers and Board of Directors continues to have very positive meetings with key Ministry officials, including Minister of Education, Hon. Shirley Bond; Deputy Minister, Emery Dosdall; Assistant Deputy Minister, Peter Owen; and the OIIS (Susan Penner, Ed Vanderboom, and Theo Vandeweg). These relationships are consultative with the sharing of concerns and issues to provide mutually acceptable solutions. My thanks go to the Board members for the roles that you each play in fostering the mission of the Federation. In particular, I must once again thank the Executive Director, Fred Herfst and his Administrative Assistant, Margaret Baldwin for the leadership they exhibit in helping further the aims and goals of the Federation.

TRADE, INVESTMENT and LABOUR MOBILITY AGREEMENT (TILMA)

Discussions continue with the OIIS and the BCCT regarding the future of the Unrestricted Independent Schools Teaching certificate. The Restricted Independent Schools Certificate is not on the table for harmonization.

NEW LEGISLATION

A large part of the latter half of 2007 was spent interpreting the new Bills that were introduced and passed. These included:

Bill 10 Tobacco Sales (Banning Tobacco & No Smoking in Public Places & Schools)

- No smoking on school property as of September 2007
- Responsible enforcement (signage and policies)

Bill 16 Public Safety Statutes

- Criminal Record Check every 5 years
- Online CRC's

Bill 20 Independent Schools Act preamble changed to "become literate..."

Bill 21 Teaching Profession (Teacher Registration)

- Independent Certification & CRC linked (3 mo Letter of Permission)
- Employment Registry & list of names
- Certification Registry
- Duty to report a teacher, principal

Bill 22 Education Statutes

- Adult Dogwood Diploma
- Reimbursement to parents for specific expenses for designated learning outcomes

BC COLLEGE OF TEACHERS (BCCT):

The past year has seen the FISA/BCCT relationship strengthen with the involvement of the FISA in the continued development and re-writing of the BCCT Bylaws and revision of the *Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in British Columbia*. It is recommended that the original 13 standards be replaced by eight standards that attempt to include the varied discussions held in the Spring of 2006 at the Wosk Centre, and the subsequent focus meetings.

STRATEGIC REVIEW:

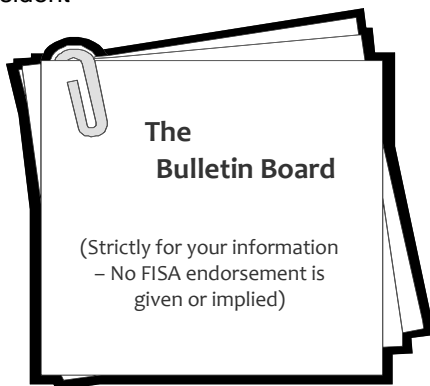
In September 2006 the Board of Directors formally adopted *The Road Ahead* strategic

planning document. Subsequently, the Board decided that a three-day retreat in January 2008 would be beneficial to providing dedicated time to discuss fully the future implementation of the document.

This past year has once again been an exciting year with new challenges and more importantly, new successes. The new legislation pieces presented independent schools with issues of implementation in order to meet the deadlines passed into law. The discussions over the future of the Unrestricted Independent Schools Certificate is one that strikes at the very core of the independent schools movement, an issue that the FISA Board has stood firm on. Harmonization with the BC College of Teachers certificate and the Alberta Ministry of Education Certificate will solidify the credibility of the Independent Schools Certificate.

I thank each of you for sharing in the vision and contributing to the intellectual capacity of the organization. In particular, my thanks to Ms. Kim Franklin (ACSIBC), Stephen Grasmuck (ISA), Bill Helmus (SCS), and Jim McConnell (ISA) who have resigned from the Board to pursue their vocations. I welcome Steve Hutchison (ISA), Robin Hinnell (ISA), Ed Noot (SCS), and David Shinness (ACSIBC) to the Board and look forward to working with them in the pursuit of the Federation's mission and vision.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Lauson
President



AUTISM AWARENESS CENTRE

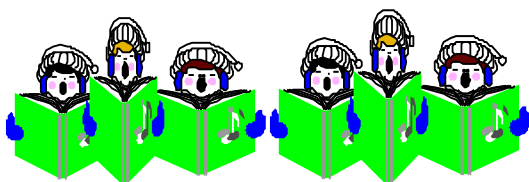
Learn practical skills that can be immediately implemented into existing curriculum and training programs, at home or in school!

February 29 and March 1, 2008 Marriott Vancouver Airport Hotel, 7571 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC.

Friday February 29, Kari Dunn Buron – Author of *The Incredible 5 Point Scale* and *When My Worries Get too Big* Understanding Social Cognition and its Impact on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Saturday March 1, 2008 Shirley Sutton Co-author of *Building Bridges Through Sensory Integration* Sensory, Oral and Fine Motor Fun (Make and Take)

Register on-line at www.autismawarenesscentre.org



2007 REVISED GUIDELINES FOR FOOD AND BEVERAGE SALES IN BC SCHOOLS

In 2005 the Ministries of Education and Health surveyed schools and districts to assess the degree of unhealthy foods being sold in BC schools. The Ministries of Education and Health conducted a follow-up province-wide assessment (Spring 2007) to determine progress toward eliminating the sale of unhealthy foods and beverages in BC schools. On November 4, 2006 the Premier announced that BC was building on its promise to remove junk food from BC schools with a broad provincial plan encompassing all provincially owned public buildings. The revised Guidelines are aligned with the recently released Canada Food Guide (2007) which recommends much lower fat, salt and sugar consumption for all people. The revised Guidelines are available on-line at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/health/tools.htm>