



Federation of
Independent School
Associations in British
Columbia

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Good News for Independent Schools!

On Thursday, May 28, 2015 proposed amendments to *The Community Charter* and the *Taxation (Rural Area) Act* were introduced for first reading in the BC legislature by Minister of Finance Michael de Jong.

The new provisions ensure that independent schools will receive statutory exemption from property taxes on all land that is reasonably necessary for school purposes. This includes playgrounds, playing fields, athletic facilities, walkways and parking lots.

While independent schools have received property tax exemptions since 1957, the previous wording was interpreted to refer only to the land upon which the school buildings stood. This allowed municipalities to elect whether to exempt the additional activity-oriented property required to provide an educational program.

The proposed wording of Section 220(1)(l) is as follows:

(l) a building owned by an incorporated institution of learning that is regularly giving children instruction accepted as equivalent to that given in a public school, and that is actually occupied and wholly in use by the incorporated institution for the purpose of giving the instruction, together with

- (i) the land on which the building stands, and
- (ii) an area of the land surrounding the land referred to in subparagraph (i) or improvements on the area of land, or both, that are owned by the incorporated institution and that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of the incorporated institution, including, without limiting this, the following areas of land and improvements:
 - (A) Playing fields, athletic grounds and facilities, playgrounds and improvements related to any of them;
 - (B) Storage, maintenance and administrative facilities;
 - (C) Dormitories for students;
 - (D) Parking lots, walkways and roads; .

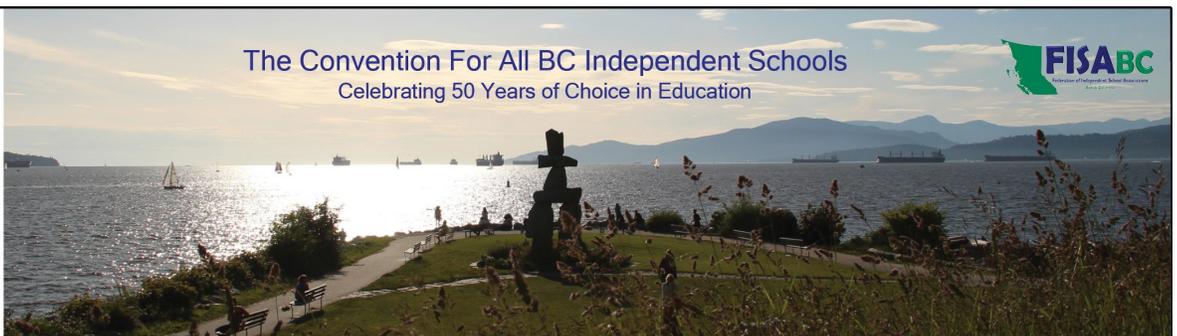
The Vancouver Charter already contains mandatory exemption for association school properties, and will not be amended.

Second reading will occur at a future sitting of the legislature, expected in the Fall. FISA BC is extremely grateful to the government for making these changes to secure historically provided property tax exemptions for all independent schools in the province that offer an educational program equivalent to the public sector.

With a united voice, FISA BC advocates for parental choice, recognition and funding; supports independent school associations in their pursuit of excellence; strengthens educational practice and contributes to the public good.

Inside this issue:

Good News - Property Tax Exemption	1
K-12 Innovation Funding	2
SET-BC Changes	3
Sponsor Convention Board Retirements	4
Bulletin Board	5



K-12 Innovation Strategy

Independent schools are encouraged to submit proposals for innovation strategies they would like to implement in September 2015

Independent schools are encouraged to participate in the K-12 Innovation Strategy announced by the Minister of Education on January 29, 2015. An email sent to all independent schools on June 2nd, 2015 asks schools to provide an inventory of learning innovations that impact student learning through curriculum innovations, changes in how the learning environment is organized (scheduling) or changes in the use of space (building design). The Innovation Partnership Working Group (IPWG) is collecting exemplars from public and independent schools that show innovations are making a difference in student learning.

Independent schools are also encouraged to submit proposals on innovation strategies that they would like to implement, beginning in September 2015. The first group of proposals will be accepted until June 17th, and a second group will be accepted in October. Proposals will be reviewed and approved on an ongoing basis as schools identify innovation strategies that enhance student learning.

FISA BC is very pleased to confirm that the Office of the Inspector of Independent Schools will be providing independent schools that are engaged in learning innovation strategies with greater flexibility during school evaluations and monitoring visits. The February 10th, 2015 eboard posting reads as follows:

The Office of the Inspector wants to provide independent schools with the same opportunities as the public system to start exploring the newly designed curriculum in the 2015/16 school year. In order to provide these opportunities, the Office of the Inspector will create greater flexibility in how schools demonstrate curricular compliance.

Schools that plan to explore elements of the newly designed curriculum in 2015/16 will be enabled to take ownership of the course overview framework and are encouraged to develop a model best suited to the school for demonstrating curricular compliance. The Ministry inspection and monitoring process will be adjusted accordingly and the expectation will be that schools exploring the 'new' curriculum will develop a way to explain how the new curriculum is being implemented to ensure that its objectives are being met. Inspection teams will look to school administrators to provide examples of how the school is developing a curricular accountability framework.

We thank the OIS for supporting independent schools in implementing innovation strategies that exemplify learning innovation in the 21st Century. See <http://www.bcedplan.ca/> or <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2015/01/teachers-and-students-to-benefit-from-new-innovation-strategy.html> for more information.



Congratulations to all 2015 grads!

FISA BC fees remain at \$5.25 per pupil, while provincial funding rates for adults, special education, and DL increase slightly

FISA BC Fees Remain Unchanged

The FISA BC Board of Directors has approved a budget for 2015-2016 that maintains the membership fee structure at \$5.25/FTE for the coming year.

Increased costs have been offset by increased enrolment in independent schools, enabling a stable fee structure for the coming year. We thank our member schools for their continued support of FISA BC.

Provincial Funding Rates Increase for 2015-2016

While the preliminary estimates for the per student funding for next year is estimating a small increase in some districts and a small decline in others, the targeted funding for independent schools has been increased in all sectors:

Special Ed.	Current Amount	New Amount	Increase
Level 1	36,600	37,700	1,100
Level 2	18,300	18,850	550
Level 3	9,200	9,500	300
Adult Education	4,430	4,565	67.50(50%)
DL Funding	5,851	6,023	108.36(63%)

Changes in SET-BC Service Delivery for Independent Schools

SET-BC is initiating a new plan for delivering technology support services to schools. The previous delivery model provided almost exclusively individual technology solutions, and individual team training and implementation support. The new model will provide services across three tiers:

- ◆ Tier 1: System-wide Professional Development Services
- ◆ Tier 2: Technology Specific and Classroom-based Solutions
- ◆ Tier 3: Individual Student Solutions

The new service will begin in September. **Please note there is only ONE application deadline this year, on September 18, 2015.** School authorities are encouraged to become familiar with the new service delivery model to determine the best support available for qualifying students.

Each FISA BC member school should have received by email four documents concerning the new service model:

- ◆ Tier Diagram entitled "Service Delivery,"
- ◆ Document describing the services available entitled "SET-BC Services for Independent Schools,"

- ◆ Tier 2: Description and application form for Tier 2 entitled "SET-BC Classroom Based Projects,"
- ◆ Tier 3: "Independent Schools Screening Checklist" to be filled out for each student applying for Tier 3 services.

All four of these documents are also posted on the FISA BC website under "Services" – "Forms/Applications."

School authorities interested in any level of SET-BC service are requested to review the Tier 1 presentation at <http://connect.setbc.org/setservices2>; the Tier 2 presentation at <http://connect.setbc.org/setservices3>; and the Tier 3 presentation at <http://connect.setbc.org/setservices4>; and follow the procedures for application.

ALL applications for SET-BC services must be submitted by mail or courier to FISA BC, 4885 Saint John Paul II Way, Vancouver, BC V5Z 0G3, as SET-BC requires original signatures. They must arrive by **September 18, 2015** in order to be considered. Approved applicants will be informed by the end of October 2015.

ERASE Bullying Training Sessions for Independent Schools

Our thanks to the MoE for funding two ERASE Bullying training sessions for independent schools. Level 1 training was provided at Pacific Academy on May 12, and Level 2 Training was provided at Notre Dame Regional Secondary School on May 20-21, 2015. We also extend our appreciation to Pacific Academy and Notre Dame for hosting these events on behalf of

independent schools.

To date, 247 independent school staff have participated in Level 1 training and 60 in Level 2 training. These 307 people represent 118 schools. Schools that have not yet participated in an ERASE Bullying training session are highly encouraged to do so.

Professional Boundaries Workshop

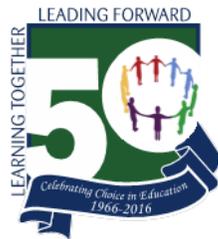
The TRB is holding a professional identity and boundaries workshop for BC certificate holders this summer. The workshop is free but space is limited with registration on a first-come, first-served basis. The date is Monday, July 20 at the TRB at 2025 West Broadway, Vancouver. Please go to <http://teach.educ.ubc.ca/event/trb-summer-workshop-on-professional-boundaries/> for more information.

Special Education Focus Groups

FISA BC signed a General Service Agreement with the Ministry of Education for the purpose of hosting three one-day focus group sessions to discuss possible changes to the provincial learning supports policy manual, based on existing budgets. Jennifer Tong, Director of Special Education with CISVA, facilitated these sessions in Prince George (May 28), Vancouver (June 4), and Kelowna (June 8).

SET-BC changes include
ONE application
deadline on September
18, 2015, and **THREE** tiers
of service to schools

The TRB is holding a
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Opportunity to Sponsor the FISA BC Convention 2016

For a tax deductible gift of \$1000 you will be recognized on the program, the website, and the newsletter as a sponsor of FISA BC Convention 2016

FISA BC is celebrating its 50th anniversary on February 4-5, 2016 with a convention at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Center. Over 5000 teachers, administrators and board members from all five associations of FISA BC will be in attendance. Never before have faith-based, university prep, pedagogical, special needs, and DL independent schools in BC come together for a time of celebration and professional development!

World-class speakers such as Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield and best-selling author and speaker Daniel Pink will be among the half dozen outstanding speakers at the convention. As well, a gala dinner will acknowledge individuals that have contributed to the emergence of independent schools as significant providers of the outstanding education students in British Columbia are receiving. Over 13% of the K-12 students in BC are now attending an independent school.

We are inviting you to participate in hosting this major event. For the cost of \$1,000, you or your company can become a supporting sponsor of the “Learning Together, Leading Forward” 2016 convention. Your participation will be recognized on the convention program, website and FISA BC Newsletter as a sponsor of FISA BC-Convention 2016.

This is a first-come, first-served opportunity for fifty companies or individuals that wish to sponsor this milestone event for independent schools in BC. Simply visit our website at www.fisabc-convention2016.com to reserve your sponsorship of the convention and your support for parental choice in education. Thank-you for partnering with us! Please call Bonnie Chant, event planner, at 604 809 0150 if you need more information.

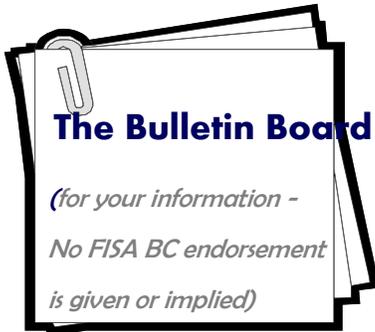
Celebrating 50 Years of Choice in Education

Two directors retire from the FISA BC Board of Directors

Retirements Impact the FISA BC Board

Don Hincks, an ISABC representative, is retiring from the Board of Directors. Don has served as director since 2010 and has provided a valuable voice on financial policy issues for independent schools. We thank him for his positive contribution in support of independent schools in BC.

Henry Contant, the SCSBC executive director, is retiring from his position at SCSBC and as director of FISA BC, after 12 years of service as a director and vice-president of the Board of Directors. His leadership has been valued on the Funding Committee, the Child Abuse Policy Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee and the Executive Committee. Henry is graciously continuing his involvement on the FISA BC Convention 2016 Committee until February, 2016. We thank him for his tireless contribution on behalf of independent schools in BC.



K- 12 Innovation Partnership

The MoE is pleased to announce the K-12 Innovation Strategy. The Innovation Partnership Working Group (IPWG) will begin accepting proposals for two initiatives: the Innovation Inventory and the Innovation Partnership. Deadline for the first intake is Wednesday, June 17. Submission email address is available at <http://k12innovation.ca/>. See story on page 2 for details.

Announcements

BCCIE Summer Seminar: Information regarding conference program, registration, costs and accommodations can be found at <http://www.bccie.bc.ca/events/summer-seminar/>.

ERASE Bullying DIGITAL DATA COLLECTION TRAINING: A one day training opportunity on using relevant open-source data and publicly available information is being offered in June throughout BC. Email admin@saferschoolstogether.com to register. Dates are: June 9 - Campbell River; June 10 - Victoria; June 12 - Surrey; June 15 - Chilliwack; June 17 - Kelowna; June 18 - Kamloops; June 23 - Terrace; June 29 - Prince George.

BC Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy will be held at the Parliament Buildings in Victoria from October 20-24, 2015. Apply online at www.leg.bc.ca/bcti before June 30, 2015.

CISVA Friends for Life Program Training Workshop that provides students with coping strategies to deal with anxiety, is being held at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Surrey on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 for elementary school teachers. Sessions are being offered at the Fun Friends (K-1), Child (Gr. 4-5), and Youth (Gr. 6-7) levels. Program material is provided free of charge from Ministry of Children and Family Development. Visit http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental_health/friends.htm for information. Contact Kerry Drozdik at kdrozdk@cisva.bc.ca to register.

VOICES INTO ACTION offers a free ERAC approved online bilingual humanities teaching resource with the intention of building social consciousness in today's youth. Register for free at www.voicesintoaction.ca. Contact jderkson@fastcyv.ca for more information and events.

UBC is offering several Summer Programs in Language & Literacy Education, including TESL Certification Program. Register at pdce.educ.ubc.ca/rits2015.

Thank you for Your Support

As another school year draws to a close, the Board of Directors and staff wish to thank you for the tremendous work you are doing in your schools to enable students to acquire the skills and concepts they will need to be successful in life. Independent schools are valued and respected for the quality education that is being provided in each of our schools, making FISA BC's task of supporting independent school education an enjoyable one.

We trust that each student, teacher and administrator and Board member will be able to enjoy a summer vacation with family and friends, and we look forward to working together again in September.

Thank-you for your support of FISA BC!

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