

Federation News

Freedom
Involves Secure
Alternatives

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THE LEGISLATURE

The Spring 2007 session of the Legislature began February 13, 2007. It is anticipated that legislation establishing a teacher registry as well as legislation altering the Criminal Record Review process will be brought down in this session. The FISA will keep the independent schools advised of the details as the Bills are tabled in the House.

STUDENT SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

Schools are reminded that it is a matter of law and policy as well as ethical commitment to student safety that schools have anti-bullying policies in place. In addition, it should be noted criminal record check procedures must be completed before a person is allowed to work with children. Finally, teachers must hold valid teacher certificates. It is recommended principals develop a follow-up system to ensure outstanding issues (extension of interim certificates, or change from interim to permanent) are addressed.

EXTERNAL EVALUATION NOMINEES

The FISA thanks the independent school community for its response to the request to submit names for persons to serve on External Evaluation teams. 150 names were submitted from 70 schools and association offices. The Office of the Inspector of Independent Schools will form teams from this list for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 years.

INCOME TAX ACT

The FISA has written a letter of support to the Hon. James Flaherty, Minister of Finance, Canada, strongly endorsing a submission made by independent schools in Ontario. Financial assistance, or tuition reduction, given by independent schools to parents or students to assist with tuition costs must currently be declared as income

by the parent or student. The submission requests that such assistance should not be required to be declared as income i.e. not be taxable, since such assistance is given to persons having the least economic resources.



SCHOOL PLANT OFFICIALS ASSOC.

Mr. John Garossino, President of the School Plant Officials Association, addressed the FISA Board members at the FISA Board meeting of January 24, 2007. The Association seeks to assist persons responsible for overseeing all aspects of physical plant matters by sharing knowledge, providing continuing education, bringing together suppliers with plant officials, and providing seminars and updates on safety matters. Building maintenance, grounds upkeep, construction, custodial services, and transportation are all within the purview of the Association. A conference with seminars and a trade show is held annually in Penticton in June. Membership is \$80 per person for full membership, but an Associate Membership is available for persons who are interested but are not plant officials (e.g. volunteers who take on responsibilities for plant matters). The association welcomes persons from independent schools and invites independent school persons to contact the Association. The SPOA office phone is 604-943-3314 website address is www.spoabc.org/

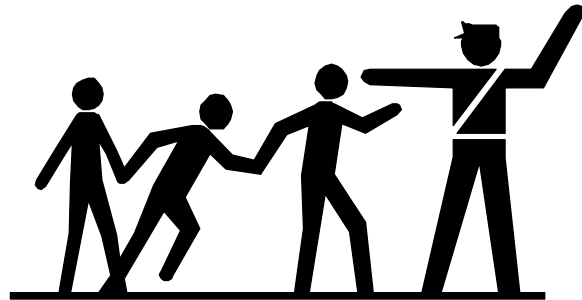
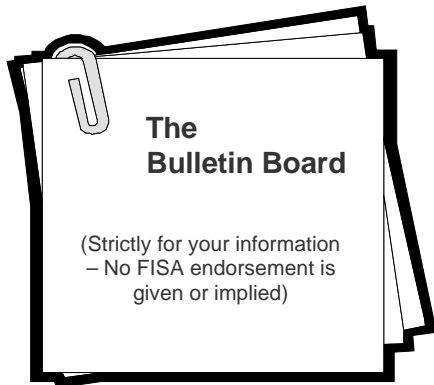


ASSOCIATION NEWS

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

We are pleased to announce that enrolment in schools of the FISA member associations grew by 2,029 or 3.4%. Enrolment in DL programs of member societies has been included. For your interest we present the following charts.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH	ACSI BC Association of Christian Schools International in BC	AMG Associate Member Group	CIS Catholic Independent Schools	ISA Independent Schools Association	SCS Society of Christian Schools	FISA TOTAL
2005-2006	7,599	11,076	21,305	10,113	9,643	59,736
2006-2007	8,559	11,511	21,443	10,458	9,794	61,765
Group Growth	+12.6%	+3.9%	+0.6%	+3.4%	+1.6%	+3.4%
2006 Total Group enrolment of FISA	13.9%	18.6%	34.7%	16.9%	15.9%	100%



CROSSING GUARDS

- On January 1, 2007 amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation came into effect regarding Traffic Control (Part 18)
- The amendments cover traffic control situations and the use of traffic control persons and will include those person involved in “crossing guard” situations. Information regarding the responsibilities, training and equipment requirements is available on the WorkSafeBC website at <http://www2.worksafebc.com/publications/OHSRegulation/Part18asp>
- For additional information please contact your local WorkSafeBC office or the office in Richmond at 1-888-621-SAFE (1-888-621-7233).

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

Language bursary programmes, university entrance scholarships, dinner at a special restaurant, travel to Ottawa etc., are among the amazing prizes to be offered at this year’s provincial Concours d’art oratoire, to be held at SFU’s Surrey campus on Saturday May 5th, 2007. More than 10,000 students from across the province participate in this annual competition.

To register please visit website at www.cpf.bc.ca



EDUCATION SERVICES WEBSITE

The "Shared Services for the Education Sector" website provides schools with access to an array of products and services at competitive prices with the aim to reduce costs and enhance services.

The website extends the services of Shared Services BC to all school boards and independent schools. The Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services developed provides this service. BC Solutions provides a direct line to a dedicated representative to assist school users with access, account setup and service questions. Services is available at : <http://www.pss.gov.bc.ca/education/>

Service Areas:

1. Office products
2. Purchasing Agreements
3. Publication Services
4. Learning Resources
5. BC Auction
6. BC Bid
7. Janitorial Supplies
8. Medical Supplies
9. Printing Services
10. Web Design

SAFETY STANDARDS FOR CUSTODIAL GROUPS IN PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

Parks Canada defines a custodial group as: "a group affiliated with an institution, where at least one person is below the age of majority and that minor is not in the company of his/her parent or legal guardian. Institutional groups include, but are not limited to schools groups".

For the 2007 season, Parks Canada will be implementing interim restrictions for custodial groups kayaking and/or canoeing in marine waters of PRNPR. Groups will be required to obtain a permit in advance of arriving at the park. Conditions of the permit will include meeting kayak guide qualifications and safety standards in effect for PRNPR.

If you are planning a kayak or canoe trip for youth in PRNPR, please contact Louanne Ralston, at (250)726-4705 for more information about a permit; or if you are planning another activity, information on safety standards can be obtained. <http://www.pc.gc.ca/pacificrim>



OUR KIDS

Vancouver private education SchoolFairs
Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre,
Saturday November 18, 2007 11 AM to 4 PM.
Our Kids School Fairs are successful, education events. The one-day fairs connect schools with parents seeking an education for their children. Parents have a chance to speak one-on-one with school officials, admission directors and students to learn about their choices in education. Reserved booth locations for schools are available by requesting forms from FAX 905-272-0474.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OUR SCHOOLS AND A SAFE, RELAXING SPRING VACATION

