



Federation of  
Independent School  
Associations in British  
Columbia

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## Surrey Christian School Innovation Grant Project By Darryl DeBoer

This past school year, Surrey Christian School (SCS) was the recipient of an Innovation Grant from the Innovation Partnership Working Group. The purpose of our innovation grant was to support SCS’s journey of authentically integrating the First Peoples Principles of Learning into our way of being and learning. This grant recognizes that the SCS’s learning on this journey is done on behalf of all the students and schools of British Columbia.



The Finished Paintings

As a school, we identified several

important starting points. First, we wanted our staff to reach a deep understanding as to *why* this journey was important for our school and for all students, schools, and communities across British Columbia. The second important motivation, which aligns with the ‘why’, was to begin establishing relationships between British Columbia’s First Peoples and the students, staff and community of Surrey Christian School. Through relationship, we would deepen our understanding of the ‘why’ and create dialogue that would empower our teachers to design and facilitate learning experiences for our students that incorporated authentic embodiment of the First Peoples Principles of Learning. As a school community, we felt that the First Peoples Principles of Learning was an integral design element of the new curriculum that could create an ethos of wholeness for

our school community; however, we also felt that we were at risk of not doing this well, and it was our hope that the innovation grant would enable us to bridge the gap from token application of the First Peoples Principles of Learning to authentic engagement and integration.

Ultimately, our deep hope was that the students, staff, and wider community of SCS would be active agents in the process of reconciliation.

While there were many facets to our learn-

ing journey this year, some of the key elements included:

1. Professional development opportunities for our staff led by Kathi Camilleri (Building Bridges through understanding the Village), Patti Victors (TWU University Siya:m, Co-director, Institute of Indigenous Issues and Perspectives) and Heidi Wood (Aboriginal Helping Teacher, SD 36).
2. Key student learning activities, including a Truth and Reconciliation community evening, a 4-week Artist in Residence program with Brandon Gabriel of the Kwantlen First Nation (<https://youtu.be/aQT3YwR581I>), the student production of a video sharing the deep hope of partnership with Brandon Gabriel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ad16RS4Yav0>), and a 10-day student trip to iCount school in Moricetown.

(cont. on p. 2)

### Surrey Christian School Innovation Grant Project (cont.)

It's a way that we can all come together and do something small that is actually very meaningful.

3. Engagement of our parent community, including a parent info evening, Truth and Reconciliation community evening, school assemblies, and numerous school newsletters regarding the purpose of key events of our innovation grant.

As we close our school year, there is a recognition that while we are still in the beginning stages of our journey, we are growing in understanding



The Witnesses

and it is a good and worthy journey. Amy Kurtz, a grade 12 student, shared these words with our school community regarding our Artist in Residence program: "It was amazing

to see all of the kids wanting to take part in it and make this into something really special. From what I saw and experienced, this is much more than just a piece of art. It's a way that we can all come together and do some-

thing small that is actually very meaningful. All of you guys that helped paint and even that talked to Brandon and had conversations, I believe that every brush stroke, every laugh and tear shared is one more small step towards reconciliation in this journey towards a beautiful relationship with the Kwantlen First Nation."

Fifteen of 55 BC Excellence Scholarships valued at \$5,000 each have been awarded to students from FISA member schools

The Ministry of Education awards 55 BC Excellence Scholarships every year valued at \$5,000 each, to recognize well-rounded BC graduates who have demonstrated outstanding community service. This year, 15 of those award winners are from FISA member schools. They are (in alphabetical order by school name):

- Mary Elizabeth Clarin** from Archbishop Carney Regional Secondary School
- Emily Anne Stotte** from Bulkley Valley Christian School
- Christy Yu** from Crofton House School
- Brenna Michelle Bazinet** from Duncan Christian School
- Jero Benedic Abad** from Holy Cross Regional High School
- Rebekah Danielle O'Brien** from King's Christian School
- Joyce Wing-You Yam** from Little Flower Academy
- Joanna Pater** from Meadowridge School
- Wesley Mackenzie Graham** from St. George's School
- Alexa Easson Bryant** from St. Margaret's School
- Ryan Friedrich Totz** from St. Michaels University School
- Brianne Elyse Driesen** from Unity Christian School
- Erin Leigh Jenna Bullen** from West Point Grey Academy
- Haley Anne Bonner** from White Rock Christian Academy
- Nicole Sabina Ticea** from York House School

These students must complete all the eligibility criteria by August 31, 2016 in order to receive the awards. They have five years from date of graduation to redeem the scholarship voucher through enrolment and attendance at an approved post-secondary institution of their choice.

### Head of the Class Athletes

Six FISA member school athletes have been recognized in Subway's *Head of the Class* issue: **Kaden Gamache** of MEI, **Hunter Hughes** of Southridge, **Dominic Lindl** of St. John Brebeuf, **Gabrielle Laguerta & Zion Corrales Nelson** of St. Thomas More, and **Regan Oey** of Vancouver College.

## DCS Student Selected to Intern with BC Cancer Agency

The Trev and Joyce Deeley Research Centre, which opened in Victoria in July 2003, is a state-of-the-art research centre supported solely by the BC Cancer Foundation through donations. The Research Centre is currently studying the effects of the immune system's response to cancer and how to help use this system for therapeutic and treatment purposes.

The Deeley Research Centre offers four high school students from across Vancouver Island the opportunity to explore cancer research during an 8-week summer internship with the Research Centre. Each of these

students is responsible for a research project, which he or she develops and implements from start to finish with support from a supervisor and a team of research scientists.

Kayleigh Morris, a grade 11 student at Duncan Christian School, has earned one of the four internships for this coming summer. She is thrilled to be a part of such a unique and challenging program and hopes to learn as much as she can about the leading edge techniques and innovations being used at the BC Cancer Agency.



Kayleigh Morris

Photo Credit:  
Ingrid Stevens Photography

## Khalsa School Students Place 2nd and 5th in Spelling Bee of Canada

Mehar Kaur Sahota of Khalsa School Old Yale Road in Surrey demonstrated that she is the second best speller in all of Canada between the ages of 9-11 at the Spelling Bee of Canada national finals in Ottawa on May 16. Her winning word was "additional," and rewards for her achievement included meeting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Christy Clark, and local MP Shawn Chen. Among other prizes, she received a trophy, a medal, and \$900.00.



Harvir Singh Sukhija, also of Khalsa Old Yale, secured fifth place and a laptop as a consolation prize. Congratulations to the Khalsa School educational community for their efforts and achievements in promoting excellence in their students.



L to R: Mrs. K. Baga,  
Mehar K. Sahota,  
Hon. Christy Clark

## BC Schools of Character

BC Schools of Character are schools which have healthy learning environments in which staff and students work together to make a positive difference in their world. The BC Schools of Character organization has a vision for all schools in BC to commit to the intentional development of positive character in our students. To receive the BC Schools of Character designation, schools must:

- ◇ Establish a set of values for their school community
- ◇ Include staff, students, and parents in establishing and revisiting their values
- ◇ Strategically promote their values throughout the school
- ◇ Develop ways to action their values into everyday life
- ◇ Intentionally use the language of character throughout the day
- ◇ Involve members of their surrounding community in their character story

To participate in BC Schools of Character, submit a one-page application that identifies the values your school has selected and outlines the practices that you engage in as a school community to encourage these values. Accepted schools will receive a certificate and permission to use the BC Schools of Character logo. For more information, please go to the website at <http://www.characterbc.com>. If you have questions, contact Heather Smith at [hsmith@meischools.com](mailto:hsmith@meischools.com) or Jaspaul Singh Dhaliwal at [jaspal.dhaliwal@dasmeshschool.com](mailto:jaspal.dhaliwal@dasmeshschool.com).

...in which staff  
and students  
work together  
to make a  
positive  
difference...

## Applying for a BC Teaching Certificate

...videos show how to apply for a BC certificate, documents to submit, and how to maintain it.

The Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) is excited to share with you a series of instructional videos about the process of applying for a **BC Certificate of Qualification**. In particular, the videos show how to apply for a BC certificate, describe what documents are required to submit as part of the application, explain how to check the status of the application, and outline how to maintain the certificate once it has been issued. You can find links to the videos on the TRB website as follows:

- ◇ For applicants who are completing (or have recently completed) a teacher education program at a BC university: <https://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/Teacher/AppPackageFromBC.aspx>
- ◇ For Canadian applicants who have completed (or are completing) a teacher education outside BC (or applicants with expired or cancelled certificates of qualification): <https://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/Teacher/AppPackageOutsideBC.aspx>
- ◇ For international applicants who have completed (or are completing) a teacher education program outside BC (or with expired or cancelled certificates of qualification): <https://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/Teacher/IntAppProcess.aspx>

## Discrimination Protection Policy

FISA BC thanks their member schools for effective discrimination protection policies

The safety and wellbeing of children in independent schools is of paramount consideration. Children deserve to be protected from abuse, neglect, bullying, harm, or threat of harm. Therefore, FISA BC independent school member associations and their affiliated schools will ensure that children attending these schools will experience a learning environment that enables every child to feel safe, accepted, and respected.

Students who feel respected, accepted and connected tend to be physically and mentally

healthier, and perform better academically. They tend to have fewer incidents of violent behaviour, be less sexually active, have a lower rate of “experimentation” with, or “use” of drugs and alcohol (*Preventing Bullying and Ensuring Safe and Caring School Communities* – Level 1; Province of British Columbia, 2013, p. 13).

FISA BC thanks their member schools for adopting and enacting effective discrimination protection policies.

## Safe Schools

ERASE expanding to Level 4

Summer Institute 2016 on Mental Wellness

Red Cross apps available

**Safe Schools** have become a priority for the Ministry of Education in recent years. All school districts or authorities are expected to have a designated Safe School Coordinator, and to send a minimum of two staff members for ERASE Bullying training. The ERASE program is being expanded annually, and this coming fall will be offering Level 4 “Train the Trainer” seminars for those interested in training others, in addition to further seminars in Levels 1-3.

Teacher resources about sexual exploitation, technology, and bullying will be made available for the coming school year. Learn more at <https://www.kidsintheknow.ca/app/en/program-cyberbullying>.

Summer Institute 2016 “Promoting Mental Wellness in BC Schools” will focus on:

- ◇ Supporting implementation of the new BC

curriculum as it relates to mental health and wellbeing

- ◇ Fostering school connectedness in classrooms and school communities
- ◇ Supporting students experiencing mental health and substance use challenges
- ◇ Creating school-community partnerships to support student mental health and wellbeing

To register, go to <http://keltymentalhealth.ca/SI2016>.

The Red Cross First Aid App is available at <http://www.redcross.ca/training-and-certification/first-aid-tips-and-resources/first-aid-app>.

The Be Ready App is available at <http://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/emergencies-and-disasters-in-canada/be-ready-app>.

Both are free to download on iPhone and Android devices.

## Independent Schools to Share in Additional Education Funding

### Pro-D to Support New Curriculum

Earlier this year, the MoE provided FISA with \$100,000 for professional development to support teachers' incorporation of the new BC curriculum, which will be implemented in grades K-9 this fall. These funds were distributed to each association to offer Pro-D sessions for their memberships.

FISA hosted a "Designing Foundations for Concept-Driven Inquiry" workshop on June 7, facilitated by Misty Paterson of SD 45 West Vancouver and attended by over 60 teachers from across all the associations. Misty led participants through exercises in developing generalizations and concepts which would then be supported by facts, rather than teaching merely facts. Misty is also available to provide in-depth consultation to individual schools. She may be contacted at [mistyapaterson@gmail.com](mailto:mistyapaterson@gmail.com).

### \$6 Million to Teach Basic Computer Coding

On June 10 Premier Christy Clark announced a \$6 million grant to introduce an expanded IT curriculum in grades 6-9. The funds will be divided into three components: \$2 million for teaching training, \$2 million to purchase equipment and resources, and \$2 million to help teachers implement the new curriculum. Independent schools will receive \$200,000 of the teacher training and \$200,000 of the implementation portions of the grant.

By Grade 9, every student in BC will take a module of basic coding. "Coding is a hands-on way of teaching students how to analyze a problem, determine the steps to fix that problem, and then create directions so a machine can carry out those steps. Whether or not students pursue careers in the tech sector, these are vital analysis and critical thinking skills for future success." <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016PREM0065->

- \$200,000 for Pro-D to support implementation of new curriculum  
- \$200,000 for a new computer coding course module

## 2015-2016 FISA BC Enrolment

Cross-enrolment options for students, primarily in DL, are raising difficulties in obtaining accurate enrolment statistics. According to the MoE as of January 2016, there are 81,659 students (HC) enrolled in independent schools, up 876 from last year.

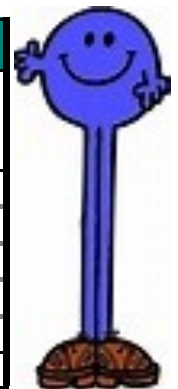
On the other hand, there are 79,382 students (FTE) enrolled this year, approximately 175 more than last year. If we use head count, our enrolment has grown in each of the last 50 years.

DL enrolment declined from 13,628 to 11,184, a drop of 2,444 students (HC), or a 17.9% decline. Brick and Mor-

tar schools, on the other hand, increased by 1.1%. The net fluctuation for 2015-2016 was -1.9%. Independent schools now represent 14.8% of the K-12 enrolment in BC.

The FISA member school enrolment (HC) is higher than reported by the MoE because we include cross-enrolled students reported by school authorities on the September Fact Sheet. According to FISA member school reports, the 5 associations enrolled 78,623 students, a decline of 1,457 students. The breakdown by association is listed below:

Associa- tions	2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016				
	# of Schools	Enrol- ment	# of Schools	Enrol- ment	# of Schools	Enrol- ment	Enrol- ment incr/decr	% in- cr/ decr	% of Total/ Assoc
ACSIBC	27	11,262	27	15,032	28	12,400	-2,632	-17.5	15.8
AMG	120	18,028	121	19,921	119	19,536	-385	-1.9	24.8
CISBC	78	21,099	77	21,878	77	21,923	+45	0.0	27.9
ISABC	26	12,442	26	12,938	26	13,149	+211	1.6	16.7
SCSBC	38	9,923	37	10,311	41	11,615	+1,304	12.6	14.8
Total	289	72,754	288	80,080	291	78,623	-1,457	18.2	100



Each district will decide when students between grades 6 and 9 will do the computer coding module

Five provincial exams will be replaced with Math 10 and Literacy 12 assessment

Supplement for Independent Schools provides step-by-step instructions on how to handle various types of emergencies.

## New Curriculum Information

- ◇ New K-9 curriculum will be implemented in classrooms in fall 2016
  - ◇ Draft curriculum for 10-12 is ready for use and will be fully implemented in 2017-18
  - ◇ MoE is working directly with more than 250 teachers on 20 curriculum teams to develop the new curriculum
  - ◇ The new curriculum fits in with the key goals of BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint to ensure young people have the skills they need for in-demand careers
  - ◇ Each district or school will decide when students between grades 6 and 9 will do the computer coding module
  - ◇ Part of the funding will provide intensive training for a number of educators in every district so they may train their colleagues
- More information about the new curriculum is available at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>, and about #BCTECH Strategy, a key component of the BC Jobs Plan, at [www.bctechstrategy.ca](http://www.bctechstrategy.ca).

## Assessment Revisions in Line with New Curriculum

To ensure that evaluation of student success keeps pace with curriculum redesign implementation, the following changes to assessment, reporting, and graduation program will begin this fall.

- ◇ Previous five provincial exams will be replaced with Grade 10 Math and Grade 10 and 12 Literacy assessment
- ◇ Student progress in all other subjects will be measured by classroom teachers
- ◇ Report cards: between late June and October 2016, parents will be consulted on what they want to know about their child's progress and how they want to receive that information
- ◇ Career Education: Beginning in 2017-18, students will take this course, showing them links between the classroom and their opportunities in life, as a graduation requirement

For more detailed information on assessment within the new curriculum, go to <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment-info>.

## Emergency Planning Supplement

In September 2015, the MoE made available to schools a 66-page manual detailing emergency prevention and management strategies, entitled *Emergency Management Planning Guide for Schools, Districts + Authorities (The Guide)*. At the Ministry's request, FISA has developed a 29-page *Supplement for Independent Schools (Supplement)*. The *Supplement* provides a page that can be posted in every teacher's room with important emergency telephone numbers, a brief summary of the important concepts in *The Guide*, and detailed step-by-step instructions regarding how to handle various types of emergencies. The *Supplement*, as well as a link to *The Guide*, was emailed to every FISA member school on Monday, June 13, 2016.

All school administrators and authorities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the

content of both *The Guide* and the *Supplement*, and to set up drills and procedures, perform assessments, and authorize staff safety officers as recommended in these two documents. Schools are also invited to personalize the *Supplement* as required for their individual organizations.

The document that was emailed to schools is in .pdf format; however, a Word version is available by request from the FISA office for those who wish to make changes or add telephone numbers electronically. *The Guide* is available at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/emergency-management-guide.pdf>. The *Supplement* is available from your June 13 school email, or by sending an email request to Magda at the FISA office at [info@fisabc.ca](mailto:info@fisabc.ca).

## BC School Sports

Our thanks to **Harry Moes**, Principal of Credo Christian, for serving on the Board of Directors for BC School Sports. Harry is retiring from his position at Credo Christian and under BCSS policy, must step down from the BCSS board. FISA is pleased to report that **Rick Thiessen**, Vice Principal of MEI has been elected to the BCSS board and we wish him well as he advocates for student athletes in independent and public schools.

## FISA Board Transitions

FISA wishes to thank the school authorities from the five associations for supporting their representatives of the Board of Directors. We do not expect to see any changes this year as the full slate of current directors is returning next year. We are very grateful for the time, effort and wisdom that the directors provide in supporting independent schools. Our schools are well represented and supported!

## Special Education Audits

In a meeting with the OIIS on May 25, the Ministry of Education representatives responsible for performing the Special Ed audits expressed appreciation to the schools as their audits resulted in 0% recovery of funding from independent schools. Well done!

## Societies Act Guide

FISA has distributed a comprehensive guide that will assist independent schools in transitioning to the new Societies Act on November 28, 2016. The new Act provides for a two-year period of transition, concluding on November 28, 2018; however, school authorities need to know that if any aspect of their current Constitution and Bylaws conflicts with the new Act, the new Act will prevail. The Societies Act Guide was sent to each member school authority. If you have misplaced the file, please email Magda at the FISA office for a copy. Her contact information is [info@fisabc.ca](mailto:info@fisabc.ca).

## Another School Year Draws to a Close

I remember when I was teenager time passed by so slowly as I was waiting to turn 16 years of age so that I could get my driver's license. Today I find that time flies by so quickly! As we reflect on 2015-2016, we offer our heartfelt gratitude to all our teachers, administration and boards for their diligence and commitment to student learning. Independent school students continue to perform well, thanks to the professional support of educators and leaders in our schools. We thank those teachers and administrators who are retiring for their commitment in support of student learning. To all those who are preparing for a summer break, thank you for your effort this past year, and may you have a relaxing and restful time during the summer months.



## And in case you were wondering where all those bottles and bags left over from the Convention ended up...





The following information is provided to you as a service of your membership in FISA BC.

FISA BC does not presuppose to endorse any group and each school will need to make its own decision with respect to following up on this information.

### BC FRIENDS Program

FRIENDS is an evidence-based early intervention, anxiety prevention and resiliency building program that has been offered in BC schools since 2004. FRIENDS promotes self-esteem, problem solving, self-expression, and positive relationships with peers and adults. FRIENDS skills include feelings recognition, relaxation, self-management, self-awareness, empathy, conflict resolution, and responsible decision making.

A complementary online parent program teaches parents and families how to reinforce FRIENDS skills at home. For more information, go to [www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental\\_health/friends.html](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental_health/friends.html) or [info@FRIENDSparentprogram.com](mailto:info@FRIENDSparentprogram.com).

### Learning Forward Conference

Learning Forward's 2016 Annual Conference in Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 3-7 provides educators with outstanding content and valuable tools to bring the most powerful forms of professional learning back home to the educators with whom they work. Gain practical solutions to the challenges you face in your classroom, school, or district every day. This conference offers powerful strategies to build school leader capacity.

Keynote speakers include Michael Fullan, Andy Hargreaves, Pasi Sahlberg, Avis Glaze, Milton Chen, and Denise Augustine. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.learningforwardconference.org/annual16/>.

### World Communication Association, North America

WCANA is dedicated to promoting intercultural communication among the people of the world. Our next regional conference, "Communication, Culture, and a Sustainable World," is in Winnipeg, August 2-5, 2016. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.uni.edu/chen/test>.

### AEG Education

AEG provides professional education, counselling, and coaching services for effective parenting, assisting positive changes in students, motivation, confidence, time management, learning, and life habits. Our workshops assist parents from other cultures to understand Canadian educational systems and cultural norms. These services can be provided in English, Chinese, and Japanese. For more information, call 604-688-8566 or email [Kelly@aegexpert.com](mailto:Kelly@aegexpert.com).

...these photos come from Mpigi Community School, approximately 50 km south of Kampala, the capital city of Uganda, where students are enjoying their new bottles and bags!



## Board of Directors

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