



## Reminders from the Ministry of Education

- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Order Policy deadline is **DECEMBER 31, 2016**
- Independent schools are reminded that all schools, public and independent, are required to upgrade their **Discrimination Protection Order** to include a reference to providing a safe, accepting and respectful environment for students dealing with gender identity, along with other forms of discrimination.
- The Minister's Order also calls for policies to include statements on acceptable behaviour, unacceptable behaviour, consequences for unacceptable behaviour and the prevention of retaliation against a student who had made a complaint of a breach of the policy.

*\*\* All schools are expected to be in compliance by December 31, 2016 by confirming online [here](#): The Harassment and Bullying Prevention Order can be found [here](#).*

## 2016 Provincial Curriculum Outreach

**FISA**, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, provided a series of 9 workshops across the province. There were three excellent presenters including **Suzanne Hoffman**, who was recently named *Chief Educator for the Ministry of Education*, **Darren Spyksma**, *Director of Learning for SCSBC* and also seconded to the Ministry of Education for provincial outreach, and **Misty Paterson**, a certified consultant specializing in inquiry and concept-based pedagogy. She is also a practicing teacher and administrator in West Vancouver.

*\*\* The December 5<sup>th</sup> John Knox session in Burnaby was cancelled due to the snowfall and FISA is working on providing an alternate session in January 2017.*

### Media Workshop:

**Daphne Gray-Grant**, an independent media communications coach currently assisting FISA on political issues, also provided Media training in four locations throughout BC.

FISA provided important information to school authorities on how to support independent schools as we move into the May 9<sup>th</sup> 2017 provincial election.



FISA would like to remind independent school authorities that they should have a minimum of 2 people who are trained in Level 1 & 2 ERASE Bullying training. There will be specific sessions for independent schools scheduled in the New Year in Prince George, Kelowna, Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland once the confirmations have been provided by the Independent Schools Branch.

*Again, we are grateful for the support that is provided by the Ministry of Education in ensuring that our schools are equipped to deal with bullying at school and on the internet. The training also enables schools authorities to deal appropriately with potential acts of violence in schools.*



**Federation of  
Independent  
School  
Associations in  
British Columbia**

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Contact Us



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## Skills, Trade and Technology Support

**Sean Engbers** and **Herb Krul** are available to assist independent schools in developing skills, trades and technology programs in schools, as well as develop partnerships with industry, post-secondary and public sectors partners. Sean can be reached at [sengbers@surreychristian.com](mailto:sengbers@surreychristian.com) or **604.807.2073** and Herb can be reached at [hkrul@timothychristian.ca](mailto:hkrul@timothychristian.ca) or **604.316.6128**. We encourage schools to take advantage of this service provided by the Ministry of Education.

## FISA International Education Advisory Committee

International education has become a major export for the province of British Columbia. The number of students in K-12 has increased from 11,713 in 2010 to 16,958 in 2015, an increase of 45%. China is now the country contributing the highest number of international students totaling 51,000 in 2015.

FISA is forming a standing International Education Committee to advise the board on issues that impact international education in independent schools. The province expects continued growth in international education and our voice needs to be part of the conversation on policy development. Individuals that are interesting on serving on this committee should speak with the FISA officer for their association.



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT November 23, 2016

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*

- Nelson Mandela

#### STATISTICS:

The FISA BC member schools have shown decreased enrolment over the past year:

Association	2015-16			2016-17		
	# Schools	Enrollment	% of Total	# Schools	Enrollment	% of Total
<b>ACSIBC</b>	27	15,032	18.7	28	12,400	15.8
<b>AMG</b>	121	19,921	24.9	119	15,936	24.8
<b>CISBC</b>	77	21,878	27.3	77	21,923	27.9
<b>ISABC</b>	26	12,938	16.2	26	13,149	16.7
<b>SCSBC</b>	37	10,311	12.9	41	11,615	14.8
<b>Total</b>	288	80,080	100	291	78,623	100



Total number of independent schools in BC	357
Total number of FISA BC member schools	291
Total membership enrolment	78,623
Decrease in FISA BC member enrollment	1,457
Percentage decrease FTE	-1.81%
Total public school enrolment (Head Count - HC)	553,378
Total independent school enrolment (HC)	81,659
Percentage of independent school students - FTE	13.1%
Total independent DL students (HC)	8,750
Total FTE in public schools	540,533
Total FTE in independent schools	79,046
Total FTE	619,579
Grants for Group 1 & 2 independent schools	\$288,455,893
Special Needs Grant –Group 1, 2, and DL	\$71,207,351
Total funding for independent schools	\$359,807,559

While FISA membership has declined by 1,457 students (HC) the overall independent school enrolment has increased by 876 students (HC). However, the overall independent school FTE enrolment has declined by 400 FTE. The reason for the decline was an 18% drop in Distributed Learning student enrolment.

The government has increased funding for BC Education from \$5.35 billion to \$5.46 billion. Independent school funding correspondingly increased from 5.3% to 6% of the budget, to fund the education of 13.1% of the school-aged children in BC who attend independent schools. The Provincial Budget provided an increase of \$47.6 million in funding allocation to independent schools, for a total of \$358.1 million for 2016-17. However, this adjustment does not represent an increase in funding for independent schools because it is a Treasury Board accounting adjustment to closer align with actual independent school grants allocations. In fact, the Provincial recalculated grant decreased on average for Group 1 schools by \$10/FTE and \$6/FTE for Group 2 schools. Independent schools still do not receive any of the funds allocated to the Learning Improvement Fund for public schools that increased from \$75 million to \$100 million.

#### **50th ANNIVERSARY OF FISA BC:**

FISA BC celebrated its golden anniversary by hosting a Convention at the Vancouver Convention Centre West on February 4-5, 2016. Over 5,100 attendees enjoyed world-class speakers like Daniel Pink (Opening Keynote), Chris Hadfield (Closing Keynote) and other general session speakers including, Charles Fadel, Yong Zhao, Alan November, Kimberly Mitchell, Christopher Gaze and Amy Burvall. The theme, Learning Together: Leading Forward celebrated FISA BC's first 50 years of supporting choice in education. The Gala dinner, attended by over 300 guests, was held at the Pinnacle Harbourfront Hotel ballroom on Thursday evening, February 4, 2016. FISABC honoured several past contributors to independent school education, including Gerry Ensing, one of the founding members and first executive director of FISABC. Several schools were also honoured for the longevity of continuous service. St. Ann's Academy is the oldest independent school, celebrating its 137th year of continuous service to their Kamloops community. My thanks must be expressed to the Convention Planning Committee, the many volunteers who worked endless hours, but especially to the student groups who performed at various point during the two-day convention. This convention marked a milestone in the history of British Columbia education.

#### **NEW FISABC MEMBER SCHOOLS:**

After a process of consultation, visitation and recommendation, the Board of Directors voted to accept, as members, the following schools:

1. Oak and Orca Bioregional School and Orca DL School, Victoria
2. Skelep School of Excellence, Kamloops (First Nations School)
3. Columbia Academy, Vancouver
4. Coast Mountain Academy, Squamish
5. Pythagoras Academy, Richmond
6. Royal Canadian College, Vancouver



### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

At the November 2015 AGM, the Board elected the Executive Officers: Doug Lauson (CISBC, President), Elizabeth Moore (ISABC, Vice President), Ed Noot (SCSBC, Treasurer), Harry Moes (AMG, Secretary) and Dave Neufeld (ACSI, Member-at-large).

There were several changes to the members of the Board: New board members include Phil Graham (ISABC, replacing Don Hincks) and Dave Loewen (SCSBC, replacing Henry Contant) who were seated on the board on September 23, 2015, and Arnold Grimm (AMG, replacing Janet Dhanhani) who was seated on November 25, 2015. Karen Gledhill (AMG) resigned on October 7th and has not yet been replaced by an AMG representative. Ms. Gledhill also served as the Chair of the Distributed Learning Standing Committee, and has been replaced by Lisa Clarke, Acting Chair. Hugh Burke (ISABC) attended two board meetings as the alternate for Elizabeth Moore, who was on maternity leave. To the new members, I extend my welcome and invitation to be full participants in the Society's business, and to those who left my sincere thanks for years of service to the independent schools of BC.

### **GUESTS ATTENDING BOARD MEETINGS:**

- September 23, 2015: Rob Fleming, NDP Education Critic and Carol James, NDP Finance Critic,
- October 28, 2015: Jan Unwin, Superintendent of Graduation; Jennifer McCrae, ADM Learning Division; Theo Vandeweg, Inspector and Brian Jonker, Executive Director,
- November 25, 2015: Dr. Ian Rongve, ADM, Theo Vandeweg and Brian Jonker,
- January 27, 2016: Jane Thornewaite, Parliamentary Secretary for Child Mental Health and Anti-bullying and Kelly Angelius, BC Friends Program,
- Hon. Mike Bernier, Minister of Education, Brian Jonker and Tristan Denniston, Executive Assistant to the Minister,
- April 27, 2016: Herb Krul and Sean Engbers, Independent School Shoulder Tappers Program,
- May 25, 2016: Jessica Antosz & Woody Bradford, Managers of Professional Learning, BCPVPA

### **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION:**

The FISA BC continues to work collaboratively with the Ministry of Education in all aspects from curriculum development to policy and legislative matters. The FISABC extended its congratulations to Ramona Soares, who replaced Dr. Ian Rongve and has been appointed Assistant Deputy Minister with the portfolio of International Education, Independent Schools and Partner Relations. I welcome Ms. Soares and look forward to a strong relationship to support the children of BC. Also, I wish to thank Dr. Rongve for his support, and on behalf of the independent schools of BC, wish him well in his new portfolio as ADM for the Diagnostic and Clinical Services Division.

### **LEGISLATION AFFECTING INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS:**

- a. Harassment and Bullying Minister's Order: Recognizing that research shows that the group of students most bullied are those who declare a preferred sexual orientation for same sex attraction, on September 9, 2016, the Hon. Mike Bernier signed a Minister's Order requiring that all schools in B.C. include specific wording to prevent bullying and harassment against all students regardless of their race, colour, religion, mental/physical disability, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. This Order brings into alignment the Ministry of Education's policy with the BC Human Rights Code, under which faith-based independent schools are exempt from discrimination if they show preference for members of that faith-based class of persons (Section 41 (1)). FISABC developed a Discrimination Protection Policy to ensure that every child is safe, accepted and respected in all independent schools, regardless of gender, race, culture, religion or sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.
- b. Society Act: The new BC Societies Act, R.S.B.C. 2015 was given Royal Assent on May 14, 2015 and it will affect almost every independent school in BC when it comes into effect on November 28, 2016. School societies will have to revise their constitutions and bylaws to conform to the new Act. The FISABC has developed a template for school societies to use when reviewing their statutory documents.





## **EDUCATION IN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA:**

- (a) Modernizing Education in BC: The Ministry of Education plans to modernize the education system through the 3-year implementation of the modernized curriculum, to be completed by 2017-18. Independent schools have been working hard to ensure that the formal implementation of the modernized curriculum (K-Gr 9) continues to go smoothly during this first year. With thanks for the \$100K government grant to train teachers in the modernized curriculum, the FISABC can report that it is halfway through the 9-city educational training 'tour' across the Province where independent school teachers are being trained in the pedagogy of the Modernized curriculum by Misty Paterson, an experienced teacher and consultant.
- (b) Shoulder Tapper Program: Two independent school educators, Herb Krul and Sean Engers, are visiting schools across the Province to explain and help introduce programs to support career, skills and technology training. This program is modelled on the Shoulder Tapper Program in public schools, but is modified for the eclectic diversity of independent schools.
- (c) BC K-12 International Student Homestay Guidelines: Many independent schools enroll international students who are billeted through the school's Homestay program. The new guidelines (June 2015) ensure that the triad of students, school and home functions in ways to best serve the students. The Ministry's inspection process of independent schools includes a segment on whether or not the school, that is providing homestay, is following these guidelines.
- (d) Provincial Committee Appointments:
  - Independent School Teaching Certificate Standards Committee (ISTCSC): Ed Noot was appointed to the ISTCSC to replace Lloyd Robinson. He joins Elizabeth Moore and Shawn Chisholm on the committee as FISA representatives.
  - BC School Sports: Rick Thiessen was elected to the BC School Sports Board of Directors as a representative of independent schools.
- (e) Emergency Planning Guide Supplement: This FISABC document supplements the Ministry Emergency Management Planning Guide for School Districts and Authorities (2015).
- (f) Provincial Dogwood District Awards: There were 627 applications submitted from member schools and 404 awards for \$1,250 each were granted to independent school graduates in Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley/Interior and Vancouver Island.

## **FISA BC ACTIVITIES:**

The FISA BC Board continues to work at matters concerning effective and efficient operation of the Federation including developing and submitting various briefs to government that seek changes to existing protocols affecting independent schools, including:

- Grant Payment Order Revision: This brief requested that the payment schedule for independent school funding be changed to simplify the number of payments from four to three, and to provide independent schools with the ability to reduce bridge-financing from commercial institutions. FISABC thanks the government for acknowledging the difficulties the previous schedule of payment created and for accommodating this request.
- Special Education Schools Funding Equity: In addition to the six independent schools who have been for decades providing a personalized education to meeting the needs of their special needs children, the government identified up to 9 more schools who also dedicate 100% of their operation to meeting the needs of children in need. The government saw fit to provide these schools, whose entire student population is learning disabled or catering to children at risk, an increase in funding amounting to \$1 million. Thank you on behalf of the special needs children enrolled in these schools.
- Reserve First Nations Protocol: Many independent schools enroll First Nations students who live on a reserve. In most of these cases, the local school develops and signs a Local Education Agreement (LEA) with the Band. These are similar to the Educational Agreements developed between the public school districts/Ministry of Education and the Band. The FISABC seeks to explore a more consistent agreement among independent schools and Bands that allow flexibility but ensure accountability for the education of First Nations students, especially in the provision of special needs services to those First Nations students who need them.



- Special Purpose Funding Equity: Independent schools are entitled to 50% or 35% funding of all operational cost services provided to all public school districts. FISABC is working to ensure that all independent schools receive their entitlement of operational funding, whether it is 50% or 35%, of any amounts given to public schools for operations.
- Property Tax Exemption: On September 30, 2016, Bill 29 was given unanimous consent by all MLAs (Liberal, NDP and Green Party) in its third reading in the Legislature. This Bill now exempts all schools in British Columbia of the burden of paying property taxes on the school property wholly used for educational purposes. On behalf of the independent schools across the Province, I would like to thank all Members of the Legislative Assembly for recognizing that all schools function to serve the children of the Province by providing educational services to produce good citizens. Thank you for supporting the original intent of the Community Charter to exempt independent school buildings and grounds from property taxes.

#### **PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES:**

The leadership of the FISABC sits on several provincial councils and committees, assisting with the continued growth and development of the education sector:

- Sector Advisory Council (SAC): The SAC is an advisory body appointed under section 171 of the School Act. It is intended to advise the Minister of Education and has the objective of providing advice on policy considerations and ensuring sector perspectives are included in Ministry initiatives. The SAC may advise the Minister on overall policies of the education system, including, without limitation in the areas of curriculum and assessment, the teaching profession, system governance and finance.
- Leadership Development Working Group (LDWG): The LDWG is a sub-committee of the SAC that has been tasked to develop a framework of leadership for all BC school administrators. The SAC recognizes the influence that effective professional development and leadership has on student achievement and that continued and sustainable leadership will have a positive impact on BC's education system. Strong school administrative leadership was identified by the SAC as a characteristic of a strong educational system. The comprehensive framework will serve as a guideline for stakeholder members to use when training and providing professional development to their school administrators.
- Continuing Professional Development Advisory Council (CPDAC): One of the elements of Bill 11 (2015) was the concept that teachers, like other professionals, should be life-long learners. The CPDAC consists of the presidents of educational stakeholders. The primary objective of the CPDAC is to provide advice on the development and implementation of a continued professional development framework that will ensure that professional development programs provide teachers with comprehensive education and services that reflect current and future needs.
- Safe Schools Coordinators Meeting and ERASE Bullying: The Ministry of Education has a particular focus on ensuring that all students in BC schools, public or independent, are protected against bullying and school violence. The ERASE Bullying and Safer Schools Together programs strive to protect all students from all aspects of harm through appropriate training of school personnel.
- Coding Advisory Committee (CAC): The CAC is composed of educational leaders and representatives from the technology industry. Its task is to advise the Ministry of Education on what the Coding unit for Grade 6 to 9, should include.
- Mental Health and Well-being in BC Schools Partnership: In the last several years, an increased focus on mental health, child and youth mental health, and a focus on positive mental health/well-being have led to multiple provincial policies and initiatives. Education Sector partners have gathered together to address leadership in the context of supporting mental wellbeing of students at school. The global aim of the partners is to promote and support mental wellbeing for all students, teachers, administrators and school staff.

### **POLITICAL LANDSCAPE:**

In recent months, independent schools have been targeted by various organizations that would prefer to see the funding for independent schools withdrawn. While opponents to independent schools are entitled to their opinions, it is disconcerting when their arguments are based on inaccurate factual information. It appears that these opponents intend to make independent school funding an issue in the next Provincial election on May 9, 2017. The FISABC is well positioned to stand its ground on factual information about independent schools and is willing and able to muster support from independent school supporters across British Columbia to defend the rights of families and children.

### **THANKS:**

The Board of Directors of FISA BC is comprised of 18 elected representatives from the five associations, three each from the Association of Christian Schools International, Catholic Independent Schools of BC, Independent Schools Association of BC, and the Society of Christian Schools of BC. The remaining six seats are from the Associate Member Group. To these board members, I express my sincere thanks for their support and diligence in good decision-making. Thank you.

To the administrative staff, Peter Froese, Executive Director, Magda Hogewoning, Executive Assistant and Gina Lozano, Office Assistant, I express my sincere gratitude for their hard work in supporting the mission of FISA BC "to enable parents to exercise the right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children and to promote the rightful place and responsibility of independent schools within a democratic and pluralistic society". The day-to-day operations of the FISA office reflect the active living of this mission statement – thank you for your dedication to the students in the independent schools we serve.

Respectfully submitted

### **DOUG LAUSON**

President

## **FISA Board of Directors Elects Officers for 2016-2017**

The Board elected the following directors as officers for the coming year:

President: **Doug Lauson**, CIS

Vice-President: **Ed Noot**, SCSBC

Secretary: **Elizabeth Moore**, ISABC

Treasurer: **Harry Moes**, AMG

Member-at-Large: **Dave Neufeld**, ACSIBC

**"Our appreciation is extended to the Board of Directors for their advocacy work done on behalf of all independent schools in BC."**

*Seasons Greetings!*

**On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of FISA BC, we extend our best wishes for a wonderful Christmas season to all our member schools, their staffs, students and families. May you experience the joy of Christmas with friends and family in whatever tradition you celebrate the season. We hope the few days away from your work bring rest and refreshment in preparation for the New Year. Our best wishes for a productive and successful New Year!**

**Federation of  
Independent  
School Associations  
in British Columbia**

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### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### *President*

**Mr. Doug Lauson**  
(CIS)

#### *Vice-President*

**Mr. Ed Noot**  
(SCSBC)

#### *Secretary*

**Dr. Elizabeth Moore**  
(ISABC)

#### *Treasurer*

**Mr. Harry Moes**  
(AMG)

#### *Member at Large*

**Mr. David Neufeld**  
(ACSIBC)

#### *Board Members*

##### **ACSIBC**

**Mr. Phil Hills**  
**Mr. Stuart Morris**

##### **AMG**

**Mr. Arnold Grimm**  
**Ms. Corazon Pabo**  
**Rabbi Don Pacht**  
**Mr. Lloyd Robinson**

##### **CIS**

**Ms. Sandy Marshall**  
**Ms. Beverly Pulyk**

##### **ISABC**

**Mr. Phil Graham**  
**Ms. Maureen**  
**Steltman**

##### **SCSBC**

**Mr. Charles de Jager**  
**Dr. Dave Loewen**







December 2016

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

Disclaimer: No FISA BC endorsement is given or implied



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

For Education Professionals

<http://pdce.educ.ubc.ca>

### GRADUATE COHORT PROGRAMS

#### **Health, Outdoor & Physical Experiential (HOPE) Education**

MEd in Curriculum Studies (HOPE)

Begins: July 2017

Delivery: Lower Mainland

Apply by: January 31, 2017

Information session: December 7; 4:00-5:30 pm/ Vancouver

#### **Early Childhood Education Online Program**

Med in Early Childhood Education (EC17)

Begins: September 2017

Delivery: Online

Apply by: January 2017

#### **Leadership: Surfacing Our Diverse Culture**

Med in Educational Administration & Leadership (REA6)

Begins: September 2017

Delivery: Richmond

Apply by March 29, 2017

Information sessions: January 18, 4:00-5:00 pm/ Richmond  
February 15, 4:00-5:00 pm/ Richmond

#### **Human Ecology & Everyday Life**

Med in Home Economics Education (HEE4)

Begins: September 2017

Delivery: Online

Apply by: March 15, 2017

Online Information session: Wed, January 11; 3:30-4:30 pm

### PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROGRAMS

#### **Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education**

A Free Massive Open Online Course (MOCC), for everyone

January 24 – March 7, 2017

Register by: January 23

#### **How Language Works: Success in Literacy & Learning**

With a focus on ELL students in K-12 settings

February 2 to April 20, 2017/ Burnaby

Register by: January 8, 2017

#### **Transformative Educational Leadership**

Developing leaders ready to engage with and transform education and significantly improve student learning. Offering a 1-year cohort program and an on-going seminar series in partnership with school districts, for education professionals. The next cohort begins October 2017, application opens in the new year.

#### **Educational Leadership & Management**

Being able to utilize key elements of leadership when making difficult management decisions can lead to greater success and ultimately improved student learning. Offering the leading-edge ELM seminars series delivered throughout the year that focus on current and emerging leadership and management topics in education.



### Sip Smart! BC Update!

**Sip Smart! BC** Update is an educational program that helps teach students about sugary drinks and making healthy drink choices. Activities fit well with the learning standards for the Physical & Health Education (PHE) curriculum for Grades 4, 5 and 6 and also touch on other curriculum areas such as Science.

An updated version of this popular program in print (including posters, drink-cut outs and class sets of booklets for families) will be mailed to schools with Grades 4, 5 and 6 in early 2017. The update has been made possible through a partnership between the BC Pediatric Society and the BC Government.

**Sip Smart! BC** is available to view online: Programs and Resources page of the BC Pediatric Society website:

<http://www.bcpeds.ca> (click [Smart! BC](#))

Questions may be directed to: Pat Zellinsky, Project Manager

Tel. 250.337.8351; email: [patbcps@gmail.com](mailto:patbcps@gmail.com)



### SPELLING BEE OF CANADA 2016-2017

All schools and education organizations from all regions/provinces are invited to participate in the annual Spelling Bee Competition. The programme will assist the child to develop their vocabulary, learn new word definitions, practice to research and learn sentence structures, as well as enhance reading comprehension, reasoning and public speaking skills. Students to join will be supported by volunteer mentors from their school and community.

EVENT: BC Regional Spelling Bee (hosted by Khalsa School)

VENUE: Khalsa School Old Yale Campus  
10677-124 St. Surrey, BC

DATES: April 2 & April 9, 2017

CONTACT: **Mrs. Kamalpreet Kaur Baga**  
BC Chapter President, SBOC  
Principal, Khalsa School Old Yale Rd Campus  
[kkbaga@khalsaschool.ca](mailto:kkbaga@khalsaschool.ca)