



Spring 2019: Issue 227

NEWSLETTER

Executive Director's Message

Dear Independent Schools,

It is hard for me to believe that we are already in the month of April and entering the final stretch of this school year. Hopefully your school communities enjoyed a restful and joy-filled Spring Break.

I offer my sincere appreciation to the many school communities that have warmly welcomed me for visits to their schools, attendance at their conferences and to other special school events. Educational research points to the long-lasting and positive effects of developing connections between students and school staff. FISA also benefits from and greatly values the relationships we have built with our schools, associations, BC education partners and the Ministry of Education.

I am also very thankful for the commitment our 5 associations have made by encouraging their gifted educators to engage with their public-school colleagues to serve on Ministry of Education committees and working groups. These Ministry teams collaborate to establish resources and best practices that help to shape the success of the BC education system.

There is important and exciting work happening through FISA Board committees. The FISA Funding Committee is tasked with exploring options that will ensure independent schools continue to receive equitable funding. FISA's Assistant Executive Director, Janet Dhanani and Mental Health and Well-being Committee Chair, Jenny Williams have been facilitating and leading the work of their committee to create valuable resources intended to assist independent schools to better support their students and staff members.

FISA continues to advocate for and partner with the Ministry of Education to provide valuable professional development to comply with regulatory requirements and to enhance professional practice. Please regularly visit the FISA website to explore the opportunities available in your area.

Best regards, Shawn



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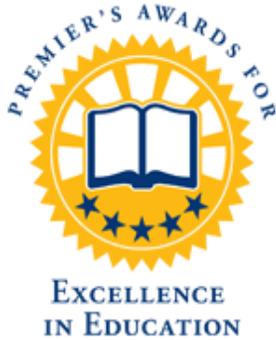
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Federation of
Independent School
Associations in
British Columbia

Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education

Without a doubt, many extraordinary people work within BC's independent school system. The Premier's Award for Excellence in Education is a chance to recognize them. FISA encourages independent schools to nominate people that truly make a difference in the lives of the students and staff in your community. Last October Shawn Chisholm, Executive Director of FISA BC and Elizabeth Moore, Executive Director of ISABC, attended the Premier's award ceremony and found it puzzling that more independent school educators were not nominated, and none were represented on the list of 27 award finalists. Please take time to review this opportunity <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/teach/excellence-in-education>. The Ministry of Education has extended the **deadline for nominations to April 30, 2019**.



FISA Funding Committee

The FISA Board of Directors, in response to the provincial public school funding review, established an ad hoc independent school funding committee. This committee has representatives from each of the 5 FISA member associations and additional members that bring expertise in the areas of Special Education, Distributed Learning and Finance. The committee is chaired by Mr. Doug Lauson, who, as the past president of FISA, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this committee.



While independent schools are not within the scope of the provincial public education funding review, we recognize that changes to public school funding could potentially affect independent school funding. With this in mind, the committee is working collaboratively with the Ministry of Education to explore funding options that will best support the exceptional services BC independent schools provide for the students and families we serve.



Make a Future



CAREERS IN
BC EDUCATION

FISA is happy to announce that we are now official partners with Make a Future. To date, over 100 independent schools have signed agreements with Make a Future allowing schools to access a suite of recruitment and human resources services. To help schools understand how to use all the facets of Make a Future, online training sessions will occur in April and May as needed. Make a Future will communicate directly with enrolled schools regarding the dates and times of these sessions.

It's not too late to join Make a Future. FISA anticipates that the upcoming school year will once again present hiring challenges and encourages independent schools to join Make a Future in order to widen your candidate pool. For enquiries, please contact Shawn at shawn@fisabc.ca.

Well-Being Project



FISA has received an Early Action Initiative grant to promote mental health and well-being in school communities. Part of the project will involve creating a website resource portal that will house video content and practical tools and resources for teachers that will include videos of experts and schools demonstrating effective practices. We are looking **for nominations of teachers or other staff (administrators, counsellors, etc.) you believe already implement effective strategies.** Our film team will work with your staff to showcase strategies that may help educators better understand strategies which promote health and wellness.

Video topics include

- ◇ Creating a positive school climate and a sense of belonging (e.g., Attachment and Trauma Informed practices).
- ◇ The impact of community service learning on emotional well-being.
- ◇ Peers as positive influencers on student well-being (e.g., peer mentoring, peer mediation).
- ◇ Cognitive behaviour strategies at school (e.g., *Zones of Regulation*, self-monitoring techniques).
- ◇ Intense exercise in support of focus, learning behaviour and decreasing anxiety and stress (e.g., treadmills/stationary bikes in classroom).
- ◇ The impact of sleep on learning, emotional regulation and behaviour (e.g., late start schedules).
- ◇ The impact of good nutrition on learning, emotional regulation and behaviour (e.g., breakfast programs, school gardens).
- ◇ Kernels of mindfulness (e.g., breathing, turtle strategy, body scan, and other regulating strategies).
- ◇ The impact of social-emotional learning programs in the classroom (e.g., *At My Best*, *MindUp*).
- ◇ Social-emotional care for educators (e.g., wellness committees, accommodating HR practices).
- ◇ Assessment of social-emotional learning (e.g., *Early/Middle Development Instrument*, *rating scales*).
- ◇ Effects of child protection programs (e.g., *Kids in the Know*, *Safeteen*, *RespectED*).
- ◇ Mental health curriculum in the classroom (e.g., *Mental Health Literacy* course).
- ◇ Stress/anxiety reduction programs in the classroom (e.g., *Taming Worry Dragons*).

If your school is implementing any of the above topics, or doing something special to support student and staff well-being that is not listed, please fill out the nomination form available on the FISA website—<https://fisabc.ca/> under the Services – Forms/Applications tab.

ERASE Training

EXPECT RESPECT & A SAFE EDUCATION

FISA will host one-day trainings for **Ensuring Safe and Caring School Communities** (formerly level 1a) on the following dates

May 27th, 2019 [The King's Centre, Langley](#)

May 31st, 2019 [Immaculate Conception School, Prince George](#)

You can access registration and see an up to date list of training opportunities on the FISA website: <https://fisabc.ca> under the Pro D tab.

No other Ensuring Safe and Caring School Communities training sessions are scheduled for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year either by FISA or in any of the public-school districts. The online version of this ERASE training is anticipated for release winter 2019.

POPEY Workshops



The Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years (POPEY) is an organization that presents supports to increase K-3 educators' capacity to support all primary English literacy learners, including diverse learners, in an inclusive classroom setting. POPEY will repeat the wildly successful *Comprehensive Literacy K-3 Framework* Pro-D, (previously held in January in Vancouver) in two additional locations— Duncan and Kelowna. POPEY will also follow up on the first Vancouver session with a part II – *Taking a Deeper Dive into Literacy* on May 31st, 2019

- * **April 8th, 2019** [St. Edward's Catholic Parish, Duncan – Comprehensive K-3 Framework](#)
- * **April 29th, 2019** [Heritage Christian School, Kelowna - Comprehensive K-3 Framework](#)
- * **May 31st, 2019** **Lower Mainland – Deeper Dive into Literacy (Registration forthcoming)**

You can access registration on the FISA website: <https://fisabc.ca> under the Pro D tab

DDAA Scholarships

Each spring, a FISA committee administers the Dogwood District/Authority Awards (DDAA) on behalf of the Ministry of Education for students enrolled in independent schools. For the 2018/2019 school year, over 400 awards of \$1250 each will be distributed to independent school students who exhibit exemplary achievement in a wide variety of areas.

Application due dates vary by geographical region: Vancouver area due date April 12th; Fraser Valley due date May 1st; Vancouver Island due date was March 12th, 2019. DDAA applications are found on the FISA website: <https://fisabc.ca> under the Services – Scholarships/Awards tab.

APPLY NOW

ARTSTARTS



Schools that applied for the ArtStarts Artists in Education (AIE) grant are reminded to submit proof of payment for performances which have taken place. A reminder that proof of payment is recognized as: invoices marked paid, receipt or copy of cancelled cheque. FISA manages the AIE grant distribution for independent schools this year disbursing the \$24,820 grant to the over 30 schools that applied.

In addition to the AIE grants, which are intended to expose students to school-based artistic performances, independent schools are also eligible to apply for the ArtStarts Artist in the Classroom (AIC) grants. The AIC grants are intended for longer-term projects where artists work directly with students over a period of time. Small-scale projects can be awarded up to \$3,500 and large-scale projects up to \$10,000. AIC grants are managed directly by ArtStarts. Applications due May 31st, 2019. More information about AIC grants is on the ArtStarts website <http://artstarts.com/aic>

FISA thanks the BC Arts Council and the Province of BC for their generosity in supporting artistic development in independent schools.



OECD Education 2030 Conference

The BC Ministry of Education is hosting this year's Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) international conference on May 22nd -24th, 2019.

This annual conference brings educators, government officials and policy makers from over 40 countries together to build a common understanding of the knowledge, skill, attitudes and values necessary to shape the global future.

Although tickets are by invitation only the event will be livestreamed. FISA President, Ed Noot, and Executive Director, Shawn Chisholm will attend and encourage independent school educators to join via the livestream. More information will be forthcoming from the Ministry of Education.

SET-BC Application Due May 31st 2019



The SET-BC application timeline has been changed from a fall submission cycle to a spring one.

Applications for the 2019/2020 school year are due May 31st, 2019. SET-BC is a Provincial Outreach Program established to assist schools in utilizing technology with students whose access to the curriculum is restricted. Examples of projects supported by SET-BC can be found at <http://www.setbc.org/set-bc-blog/>. Application forms are available on the FISA website, <https://fisabc.ca/> under the Services—Forms/Applications tab.



Coast Capital Youth Get It Awards

FISA is pleased that Coast Capital Savings has once again designated 3 “Youth Get It – Standing Tall” Awards each in the amount of \$3,500 for students graduating from independent schools located in Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, mid and southern Vancouver Island, and Kelowna. These awards are intended to support youth who have persevered despite facing adversity.

Application packages have been mailed to independent schools within the qualifying regions and are also available on the FISA website: <https://fisabc.ca> under the Services – Scholarships/Awards tab.

Applications are due in the FISA office by 4:00 pm, April 12th, 2019. Applications may be emailed to info@fisabc.ca or mailed to 4885 Saint John Paul II Way, Vancouver, BC V5Z 0G3

Dual Credit Opportunity for Grade 11 & 12



Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) has partnered with Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley schools to create a Dual Credit Program. This program allows **Grade 11 or 12** students to take university courses during their final high school years at KPU and experience what life as a university student is like. Credits earned through this program may be transferable to other post-secondary institutions.

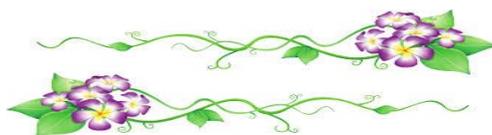
The Associate Member Society (AMS) invites all secondary school administrators and counsellors to attend an information session on April 11th, 2019 1:00-2:30 p.m. at Khalsa Secondary School in Surrey. Register to [attend in person](#) OR Via the [livestream](#) on the [FISA website](#) <http://fisac.ca> under the Pro-D tab— Association Workshop

Legacy Schools



The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund invites BC independent schools to become a Legacy School.

Every Legacy School will receive a Secret Path Learning Toolkit and access to Secret Path education support and resources that focus on the history and impact of the Residential School system. For more information and to register visit <https://www.downiewenjack.ca/our-work/legacy-schools/legacy-schools-registration>.



First Nations Schools Association

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has rightly challenged Canadian schools to enrich relationships with Indigenous Peoples. As a small step in this direction, the FISA Board of Directors will be meeting with the First Nations Schools Association (FNSA) Board of Directors so that each organization can gain an understanding of the work being done and identify areas of cooperation. Independent school educators are invited to attend FNSA's annual conference on April 12th-13th in Richmond. This year's theme is Persistent and Resilient: Striving to be the best. More information on the FNSA website <http://www.fnsa.ca/conference>



Ministry of Education Committees/Working Groups

FISA is very pleased that the Ministry of Education consistently requests independent school educators for participation on important committees/working groups that influence the direction of BC education. Thank you to the five FISA association heads for providing FISA with strong candidate names. The caliber of the candidates is exceptional, and representative of the outstanding work being done in independent schools. Unfortunately, there are generally more candidates than positions to fill, therefore not everyone who is fully qualified is able to be included. Please know FISA reviews all the candidate submissions and attempts to allocate these assignments across all five FISA associations.

Spanish Language and Culture Assistants Program

The Spanish Ministry of Education and the BC Ministry of Education invite independent schools with Spanish language programs to consider participating in the Language and Culture Assistants program. This program provides BC schools with a native Spanish speaker from Spain (mainly university students in teacher education programs) who can help the classroom teacher encourage students to improve their fluency and enrich their knowledge of Spanish culture. The majority of the expenses are covered by the Spanish government with participating schools requested to provide a small stipend for living expenses.



Congratulations to Discover Montessori School for your contribution to stewardship and restoration in Nanaimo parks as recognized by the City of Nanaimo.

Well done!



Board of Directors

FISA BC 2018/2019 Directors

At the November 2018 Annual General Meeting, the Board elected the Executive Officers:

President – Ed Noot, Executive Director, Society of Christian Schools in BC (SCSBC)

Vice President – Elizabeth Moore, Executive Director, Independent Schools Association of BC (ISABC)

Secretary – Arnold Grimm, Director of Accreditation, Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AMS)

Treasurer – Bev Pulyk, Superintendent, Island Catholic Schools (CISBC)

Ex-Officio – Phil Hills, Executive Director, Association of Christian Schools International, Western Canada (ACSIBC)

The other FISA BC Board of Directors:

ACSIBC Directors

Stuart Morris, Principal, Highroad Academy

Vijay Manuel, Head of School, Mennonite Education Institute

AMS Directors

Amber Papou, Executive Director, SelfDesign Learning Foundation

Rabbi Don Pacht, Principal, Vancouver Hebrew Academy

Kent Dykstra, Principal, Credo Christian High School

Phil Hudema, Superintendent, Seventh-day Adventist Schools in BC

Gabe Linder, Principal, Traditional Learning Academy Online

ISABC Directors

Kelly Chow, CFO & Business Manager, Mulgrave School

Maureen Steltman, Head of School, Fraser Academy

CIS Directors

Sandy Marshall, Associate Superintendent, Catholic Independent Schools Vancouver Archdiocese

Art Therrien, Superintendent, Catholic Independent Schools Nelson Diocese

SCSBC Directors

Charles de Jager, Lawyer, De Jager Volkenant & Company

Dave Loewen, Superintendent, Surrey Christian School

