



Summer 2019: Issue 278

NEWSLETTER



Executive Director's Message



As the 2018-2019 school year comes to a close, I approach the end of my first year serving as the Executive Director of FISA. As would be expected, there were plenty of things that I needed to get up to speed with and that process continues with the support of an exceptional staff at the FISA office.

Thank you Janet, Magda, Patricia and Marina. Your timely reminders, your wise counsel and your passion to support the people and organizations that deliver choice in education for BC families—is greatly appreciated. Thank you as well to the FISA Board members. I am always impressed by the level of commitment our Board members assign to promoting the greater good for BC's independent schools and the students we serve.

The most rewarding aspect of my position thus far has been the relationships I have been developing with the people that make things happen in the BC education sector. I certainly appreciate the Ministry of Education's inclusion of FISA as a provincial education partner. Working with independent schools, our colleagues in the public education sector and Ministry staff, it is evident to me why BC student achievement is world class.

I have also had the wonderful opportunity to visit a number of independent schools around the province and witness the diversity and great work that is happening in independent schools. A special thank you to the schools that have hosted my visits - you have been very welcoming and candid in our discussions.

Congratulations on another year of positively influencing the holistic development of your students and best wishes for a joy filled and peaceful summer break.

Sincerely,
Shawn Chisholm



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

Independent School Staffing

Indicators suggest that independent schools may experience challenges again this year in filling open positions. We remind schools that if you plan to hire a new teacher who is not BC certified it is imperative that you work with the selected teacher in submitting an application to the Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) promptly. To meet the demand for certification the TRB has recently undertaken restructuring measures including the hiring of more evaluators and streamlining their website, but the certification process depends on applications being complete with all supporting documents.

Letters of Permission (LOP) remain a viable alternative if a school is unsuccessful in recruiting a certified teacher. Current LOPs can be extended for the duration of the upcoming school year as long as the extension application is received by July 15, 2019. LOP extensions will only be considered for the same individual, in the same school, for the same position and schools must provide evidence they have advertised the position for at least two weeks. New applications for LOPs are also being accepted.

Make a Future



FISA thanks the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) for the warm welcome they have extended to independent schools that have joined Make a Future. Over 150 independent schools are currently using Make a Future for assistance in the recruiting and hiring of qualified staff leading to a number of successful job placements. Having independent school employers situated side-by-side with public school employers reinforces the importance of having choice in education, both for families to choose the education that their child receives and for educators and support personnel to choose employment that matches their personal beliefs and values. Schools interested in joining Make a Future can contact FISA at info@fisabc.ca for more information.

Professional Standards for BC Educators



The BC Teachers' Council has recently updated the [*Professional Standards for BC Educators*](#).

These *Standards* apply to all Certificate of Qualifications (COQ) holders regardless of whether a teacher is employed by a public, independent, offshore, or First Nations school. The *Standards* communicate the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that define educators' work. They serve both as ideals to which educators aspire and expectations that can be reasonably held. FISA encourages COQ holders to review the *Standards* paying special attention to *Standard 9*:

Educators respect and value the history of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada and the impact of the past on the present and the future. Educators contribute towards truth, reconciliation and healing. Educators foster a deeper understanding of ways of knowing and being, histories, and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Educators critically examine their own biases, attitudes, beliefs, values and practices to facilitate change. Educators value and respect the languages, heritages, cultures, and ways of knowing and being of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Educators understand the power of focusing on connectedness and relationship to oneself, family, community and the natural world. Educators integrate First Nations, Inuit and Métis worldviews and perspectives into learning environments.

It is anticipated that the Independent School Teaching Certificate Standards Committee will be making similar modifications to the [*Independent School Teacher Conduct and Competence Standards*](#) for teachers who hold ISTC certification.

Provincial Outreach Pro-D

FISA's 4th annual Provincial Outreach professional learning series is ready to go. This year's focus is on supporting mental health in schools. The primary presenter will be Dr. Linda O'Neill, Associate Professor UNBC Counselling program. She will guide participants in understanding how trauma-informed practice can enhance social emotional learning (SEL). The videos and resources produced through the Early Action Initiative grant received by FISA will be revealed during the Provincial Outreach. These videos have a panel of experts explaining a variety of SEL approaches and strategies and feature independent school educators demonstrating the methods in action. This Provincial Outreach will be a valuable learning experience for school staff at all levels. FISA is grateful to the Ministry of Education for continuing to support these exceptional learning opportunities and to the many schools who serve as hosts. Registration information will be sent to schools in early September.

Provincial Outreach Dates (8:30 a.m – 4:00 p.m.)

Monday, Sept. 30 - Prince George
Monday, Oct. 7 - Dawson Creek
Friday, Oct. 11 - Cranbrook
Tuesday, Oct. 15 - Surrey
Friday, Oct. 18 - Terrace
Thursday, Nov. 7 - Victoria
Friday, Nov. 8 - Nanaimo
Wednesday, Nov. 20 - Kelowna
Thursday, Nov. 21 - Abbotsford
Friday, Nov. 22 – Vancouver



Regional Tour

A Regional Tour will occur in conjunction with the Provincial Outreach. The Regional Tour addresses regulatory and policy issues from the Independent Schools Branch in the Ministry of Education, and advocacy issues supported by FISA. It provides an opportunity for school administrators and board members to interact directly with Ministry representatives and FISA's Executive Director, Shawn Chisholm. Time will be given for participants to ask questions and bring forth concerns.

Regional Tour Dates (7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

Monday, Sept. 30 - Prince George
Monday, Oct. 7 - Dawson Creek
Tuesday, Oct. 15 - Surrey
Thursday, Oct. 17 - Terrace
Thursday, Nov. 7 - Victoria
Tuesday, Nov. 19 - Kelowna
Wednesday, Nov. 20 - Abbotsford
Thursday, Nov. 21 – Vancouver



ERASE Training

EXPECT RESPECT & A SAFE EDUCATION

This year FISA offered a record-breaking 10 ERASE training sessions to help ensure that independent school educators are aware of how to prevent and respond to concerning behaviour, threats, and acts of violence. Nearly 800 independent school educators received training through either a FISA hosted session or a district hosted one. Although the frenzy for training seems to have abated, FISA will continue to work with the Ministry of Education to assess training needs. For 2019/2020 FISA will host the following session:

October 2-3 – [Basic VTRA, Aberdeen Hall, Kelowna](#)

November 25-26 – Advanced VTRA, Little Flower Academy, Vancouver

December 2 – Basic DTA, Traditional Learning Academy Online, Langley

Independent school educators are also encouraged to attend ERASE trainings offered through the public school districts. A number of school district training sessions have already been announced for the 2019-2020 school year. These are listed on the FISA website under the [Pro-D](#) tab.

POPEY Workshops



FISA is pleased that we will continue our relationship with POPEY (Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years) for the 2019/2020 school year. POPEY is a Ministry of Education Provincial Resource program focused on increasing K-3 educators' capacity to support English literacy learners, particularly diverse and struggling students in the classroom. FISA intends to offer POPEY workshops in the Lower Mainland, Kelowna, Vancouver Island, and North/West BC. The first FISA hosted POPEY workshop is scheduled for:

Sept. 4 in Dawson Creek - [Please register](#) by **June 28**.

POPEY has a part-time (0.2) Teacher Consultant position open. Independent school educators are encouraged to apply. You do **not** need to live in the Lower Mainland to join the POPEY team. Application deadline is noon on July 12, 2019. [See job posting for more information](#).

Set-BC Tier 1 Services



SET-BC is a Ministry of Education funded provincial resource program created to assist BC school districts and Group 1 and 2 independent schools build capacity to use technology to support the diverse needs of students. Schools are able to draw upon SET-BC expertise at no charge.

FISA has been informed that the procedure for requesting Tier 1 professional learning services from SET-BC has been revised. A SET-BC catalogue describing the trainings available and a request for service form can be found on the [SET-BC website](#). Please note SET-BC has designated five training periods throughout the school year with application deadlines of Oct. 1, Dec. 1, Feb. 1, Apr. 1, and June 1.

Safe School Coordinators Meeting

The Ministry of Education announced that the 2019/2020 Safe School Coordinators Meeting will be held in Richmond on Oct. 28-29. This meeting provides attendees with the latest information regarding Ministry initiatives leading to safer school environments. FISA's practice is to allocate the seats reserved for independent schools through the five FISA-member associations. Please contact your Association office if you are interested in representing your association at this event.

2019 School Community Health Conference Videos



Videos from the Ministry of Education's 2019 School Community Health Conference are available on the [ERASE website](#).

A panel of world-class experts was assembled including keynote addresses by Peter Senge, Monique Gray Smith, Mark Greenberg, and Kimberly Schonert-Reichl. Messages from The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, and The Honourable Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions are also available for viewing. Independent schools are encouraged to share these videos widely and to consider incorporating them into staff development trainings.

District/Authority Scholarships

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, FISA oversees the District/Authority Scholarship (DAS) program for students graduating from independent schools. This year 671 applications were received, an increase from the 610 received last year. In total 430 scholarships in the amount of \$1,250 each were awarded. FISA thanks the DAS committee consisting of John Slofstra (chair), Simon Tuffin, Chris Blesch, Anita Irani and Julie Lade for once again doing a superb job of managing this intensive award process. FISA also expresses appreciation to the army of adjudicators who exercise professional judgment in evaluating the merit of each application. Special thanks go to Helen Bulthuis, Credo Christian School, for managing the paperwork. This will be John Slofstra's last year on the DAS committee. Thank you John for twenty years of committee service, FISA joins the thousands of award winners in expressing our gratitude.

Congratulations to all the 2018-2019 DAS winners!



ARTSTARTS

The BC Arts Council and Province of BC is once again bringing the arts and children together. Through ArtStarts in Schools, FISA has been allocated nearly \$25,000 to distribute to independent schools who apply for the Artist in Education (AIE) grant for the 2019-2020 school year. Group 1, 2, 3 and 4 independent schools may apply for an AIE grant to support professional artists offering in-school performances in the areas of theatre, music, visual arts, literary arts, and dance. Applications are due Friday, Sept. 13, 2019. AIE grant applications available on the FISA website under the [Services tab](#).



Capstone Pro-D Resources

As part of the BC Ministry of Education graduation requirements, all grade 12 graduates in BC will participate in a Capstone Project beginning in the 2019/2020 school year. The Capstone Project has two main components:

- 1) A reflection on the students' education journeys which includes looking back at their community, mentors, friendships and learning;
- 2) A look ahead to their future career and education paths

FISA thanks Vivian Collyer, Education Programs Division, Ministry of Education and Darren Spyksma, Director of Learning, SCSBC, for leading the June 5th Capstone Workshop. Presentation slides are available on the FISA website under the [Pro-D tab](#). Video recordings of the presentations will be uploaded as they become available.



KPU Dual Credit Program



A video recording of the KPU Dual Credit Program Information Session held by the AMS of FISABC is available for viewing on the FISA website under the [Pro-D tab](#). The Ministry of Education has verified that independent schools are able to claim funding for students enrolled in dual credit programs with the stipulation that the maximum funding limit of 1.0 FTE (eight courses) applies. Independent schools may charge parents for dual credit tuition costs that exceed Ministry funding. Contact Maryam Garrecht, Confidential Assistant, Office of the Provost, at Maryam.garrecht@kpu.ca for more information.

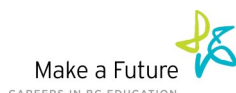


FISA Membership Fees



The membership fees for FISA will remain at \$6.25/FTE for the 2019-2020 school year. Through its five FISA member associations: Association of Christian Schools International (ACSIBC), Associate Member Society of FISABC (AMS), Catholic Independent Schools in BC (CISBC), Independent School Association of BC (ISABC), and Society of Christian Schools in BC (SCSBC) – FISA represents 316 independent schools educating 83,309 students or 13.1% of all K-12 students in BC. FISA has an exemplary record of accomplishment and works hard to ensure that independent schools continue to receive due recognition and funding. We are proud to serve you. Please note that association membership fees are separate from the FISA fees.

Fees Collected by FISA



To assist independent schools in accessing services provided by Make a Future and My Education BC iGroup Help Desk (MyEdBC) FISA collects the fees on their behalf. Independent schools using these services will pay the following fees for the 2019/2020 school year:

- ⇒ Make a Future - \$3.75/FTE student (plus GST) **Total = \$3.94** broken down as \$3.75+.019 GST
- ⇒ My Education BC iGroup Help Desk :
\$5.45/FTE student for FISA member schools (plus GST); **Total = \$5.72** / \$5.45 +.27 GST

ADVANTAGES OF MYEDBC

1. The ease of transferring student data between schools is greatly increased. The data is available as soon as a student walks in your door; no more waiting for schools to fax or mail student data
2. There is consistent record keeping of student information across all schools
3. The ability to cross-enroll students to other schools in the province and instantly share student information as needed
4. There is a great improvement in the ease and efficiency of Ministry reporting for 1701 and TRAX

For more information contact: Andrew Smit – Project Manager / andrewsmit@bcesisigroup.ca

FISA Funding Committee



A very special thank you to the members of the FISA Funding Committee (FFC). While the government is engaged in a review of public school funding the FFC has worked tirelessly analyzing and responding to the 22 recommendations from the [Improving Equity and Accountability: Report of the Funding Model Review Panel 2018](#) and researching possible funding model options. The FFC is made up of representatives from each of the five FISA associations and representatives from Special Needs Education, school finance and Independent Distributed Learning schools.

Doug Lauson	Committee Chair	Maureen Steltman	Special Needs Education
Sara Kraushar	ACSIBC/IDL Schools	Ed Noot	SCSBC
Phil Hudema	AMS	Tracey Yan	School Finance
Art Therrien	CIS	Janet Dhanani	Assistant Executive Director, FISA
Bev Pulyk	FISA Treasurer	Shawn Chisholm	Executive Director, FISA
Elizabeth Moore	ISABC		

FISA Transitions

FISA bids adieu to Magda Hogewoning, our outstanding executive assistant. Magda joined the FISA office in 2009 to cover a short-term leave expecting the position to last no more than six months. We are fortunate that she was able to extend her stay significantly! For the past ten years independent schools have benefited from Magda's meticulous attention to detail, warm demeanour, and unfailing support of school choice. To learn more about Magda's experience with FISA, please read this [blog post](#). We sincerely thank her for her service and wish her a happy, long-delayed, retirement.

In the wake of Magda's upcoming retirement at the end of the summer, FISA welcomes two new staff members – Patricia Macdonald, Office Manager, and Marina Cholakian, Office Assistant. Patricia and Marina are busily learning the scope of work of our small, but very busy office. They bring a wealth of experience and a breadth of talents that will benefit independent schools tremendously. Welcome aboard!



Magda



Patricia



Marina

Our Deepest Gratitude

Interest in independent schools continues to grow as families make the financial sacrifice of enrolling their children in an independent school in British Columbia. It is the excellent work of the teachers, teacher assistants, support staff, administrators and others that enables independent schools to remain strong. FISA and its Board of Directors thank those teachers, administrators and support staff who are retiring for their commitment in the service of student success. 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 to those of who support students year-round, thank you for your diligence and stamina!

Our collective efforts within the independent school system not only serve our students well, they enrich the BC educational landscape and prove that independent schools continue to earn the right to recognition and funding – something FISA has sought to gain and then to protect for 53 years. The recent passing of Gerry Ensing, one of FISA's "founding fathers" and first Executive Director (1969-1985), reminds us that diversity is our strength. From Mr. Ensing's resignation letter, "I trust that FISA will maintain its vigour. The mutual respect with which members consider each other's points of view will, no doubt, keep it strong. The differences serve as a reminder of the frailty of freedom. If they are ignored, a loss of freedom is inevitable." It is easy to lose sight of this aspect of independent schools amidst the hustle and bustle of providing quality education, but in addition to all the other functions you fulfill, take pride in knowing that you also serve as a bastion of a free society.

Queen of Angels Potlatch

Queen of Angels School, Duncan, held its 2nd annual Potlatch on June 12, 2019. The school worked closely with representatives from the Cowichan Tribes to plan a ceremony that symbolized the transfer of leadership from the graduating grade 9 students to the grade 8 students. With nearly one-third of the student population identifying as First Nations, Queen of Angels School has fully embraced the role of education in the truth and reconciliation process. The look of joy on the faces of the many parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, and Elders in attendance affirmed the healing power of being in relationship with one another.



Cousteau School, The French International School of Vancouver

Wednesday, June 5th, 2019, FISA shared in a flag ceremony raising as Cousteau School, The French International School of Vancouver, became the first and only Eco School in Canada accredited by the International Foundation for Environmental Education.

It was an exciting and historic day for the children, as letters of congratulations were shared from the local MLA and Prime Minister along with words of encouragement provided by the Consul General of France in Vancouver, The Honourable Philippe Sutter.



Board of Directors

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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)

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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,
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Gabe Linder, Principal,
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