



FISABC

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2019: Issue 229



Executive Director's Message



Dear Independent School Communities,

On behalf of the FISA Board of Directors I would like to welcome you all (students, parents, support staff, teachers and school/authority administrators) back for the start of a new school year. I hope the summer break provided you with peace and joy and you feel rejuvenated as the school year begins anew.

Reflecting on what I appreciated during my time as a teacher and principal within the BC independent school system – it was that every September brought new students, new colleagues, new requirements / curriculum / resources, new challenges and new opportunities to make a difference in the lives of BC youth. I am also keenly aware that the world of K-12 education continues to advance in complexity as it becomes more effective in meeting individual student needs. BC independent schools have led the way in producing world class student outcomes and this is a direct result of the committed service provided by the people that are dedicated to the holistic development of children enrolled in independent schools.

FISA offers our best wishes for a year filled with great learning and personal fulfillment!

Shawn

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



FISA FACT SHEETS

FACT SHEET FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2019 - 2020
Please complete (or correct where necessary) the following information
Please return by mail, email, or by fax before October 11, 2019
to: FISA-BC by email to info@fisabc.ca or fax 604-691-2153

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL NUMBER: _____

NAME OF SCHOOL: _____ YEAR FOUNDED: _____

NAME OF AUTHORITY: _____ SCHOOL PHONE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ SCHOOL FAX: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS (if different from above): _____ WEBSITE: _____

CITY: _____ POSTAL: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PRINCIPAL FIRST NAME: _____ PRINCIPAL LAST NAME: _____ DEGREE: _____

2. ENROLMENT (as of September 30, 2019) a) GRADES OFFERED: _____

b) INDICATE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN EACH GROUP BY HEAD COUNT:

Please report if applicable:

Pre-K Ages 3 - 4:	Half-day K:	Grade 8:
Adult students:	Full-day K:	Grade 9:
Number of Family units represented in total enrolment:	Grade 1-7:	Grade 10:
	Ungraded Elem:	Grade 11:
	Ungraded Sec:	Grade 12:
	Total K-7:	Ungraded Sec:
	Total 8-12:	Total K-12:

3. SCHOOL TYPE

a) SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION GIVEN BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OFFICE: _____

b) SCHOOL SPECIALTY (IF ANY): _____

4. RELATIONSHIP

a) SCHOOL IS MEMBER OF FISA BC: ☐

b) SCHOOL IS MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION: _____

c) SCHOOL IS MEMBER OF NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS: _____

d) SCHOOL IS LOCATED IN:

i) PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #: _____ NAME: _____

ii) PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL DISTRICT: _____

It will soon be that time of year when FISA sends out the annual *Fact Sheets* for updating.

In an effort to improve efficiency, this year you will be receiving the *Fact Sheet* via email. As this will be the first year we are implementing this new process we ask for your patience with any potential glitches however we do anticipate all to go smoothly.

Upon receipt of the fillable pdf *Fact Sheet* please complete as required using the information from your 1701 submitted to the Ministry of Education.

Should we encounter any issues, we will follow up with traditional mailout of the *Fact Sheet*.



Make a Future



Thankfully, anecdotal reports seem to indicate that independent schools did not face the same severe staffing challenges this year as in the recent past. The FISA office has also heard several good news stories about independent schools successfully hiring new staff through Make a Future, a branch of the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA). Having independent school employers situated side-by-side with public school employers on <https://makeafuture.ca> reinforces the importance of having choice in education, both for families to choose the education that their child receives, and for educators 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.



Provincial Outreach Pro-D

School is back in session and the leaves are falling, which means it's time for FISA to bring the Provincial Outreach professional learning workshop to independent schools throughout BC. This year's focus applies to each and every school and to all staff – **supporting the mental health and well-being of school communities**. Mental health has an impact on students' educational achievements and their long-term success. Mental health also plays an important role in the well-being and productivity of educators, support staff, and parents too. Without a doubt, mental health and well-being encompasses a huge range of complex and challenging issues. We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Linda O'Neill guide us not only in understanding the "why" and "what" but also the "how" through practical, research-based strategies that can be implemented in classroom and school settings. Dr. O'Neill is a sought-after presenter with a wealth of expertise in trauma-informed practice, social-emotional learning, attachment disruption, ACEs-informed schools, emotional regulation, and more. Most importantly, she "gets it" – educators want to help students thrive but sometimes it's all so overwhelming. Dr. O'Neill practices what she teaches, building a compassionate learning community that inspires hope and promotes resiliency through proven strategies.

FISA encourages schools to send as many people as you can to this year's Provincial Outreach. These events are free, and lunch is provided. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have at least one representative from each of FISA's 316 member schools attend? Imagine the impact that would have on the mental health and well-being in the independent school community!



Register by clicking the link below or on the FISA website

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

[Monday, Sept. 30 - Prince George](#)

[Friday, Oct. 11 - Cranbrook](#)

[Tuesday, Oct. 15 - Surrey](#)

[Friday, Oct. 18 - Terrace](#)

[Wednesday, Nov. 20 - Kelowna](#)

[Thursday, Nov. 21 - Chilliwack](#)

[Friday, Nov. 22 – Vancouver](#)

Thursday, Dec. 5 - Victoria (registration opening soon)

Friday, Dec. 6 - Nanaimo (registration opening soon)

TBD—Dawson Creek (registration opening soon)

Regional Tour Information Session



Not only does FISA bring professional learning to you, we also bring answers as part of the evening Regional Tour information sessions. This is a chance 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 (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](#)

[Tuesday, Nov. 19 - Kelowna](#)

[Wednesday, Nov. 20 Chilliwack](#)

[Thursday, Nov. 21 – Vancouver](#)

Thursday, Dec. 5 - Victoria (registration opening soon)

FISA expresses sincere thanks to the Ministry of Education for supporting professional learning in independent schools. We also extend special thanks to our member schools who have graciously agreed to serve as hosts for these events.

ERASE Training

EXPECT RESPECT & A SAFE EDUCATION

After a marathon of 10 FISA hosted ERASE training sessions last year, we will resume our more typical offering of three ERASE sessions in the 2019-2020 school year:

[Basic VTRA \(formerly Level 2\), Kelowna, Oct. 2-3](#) | [Advanced VTRA \(formerly Level 3\), Vancouver, Nov. 25-26](#)

[Basic DTA \(formerly Level 1b\), Surrey, Dec. 2](#)

Independent school personnel may also attend ERASE training sessions held in school districts. ERASE training locations, dates and registration links can be found on the FISA website www.fisabc.ca under the “Pro-D” tab. When registering indicate “Independent School” in the “Your School District/Organization” field (scroll to the end of the list). This will assist in ensuring that certificates are directed to the appropriate independent school and not to a district office.

The ERASE training guidelines have been adjusted for the 2019/2020 school year. For more information see section 5.02 in the [External Evaluation Report](#). Please note that Ensuring Safe and Caring School Communities (formerly Level 1a) is **not** a requirement for the current school year. This training is scheduled to be available via an online platform in Spring 2020.

2019-2020 Supplemental Funding for Unique Student Needs

The Ministry of Education announced a funding increase for each of the three levels of Special Needs student funding for the 2019 – 2020 school year:

For each **Level 1** headcount student (includes students identified as Physically Dependent or Deafblind) **\$42,400** (increase of \$3,600/student).

For each **Level 2** headcount student (includes students identified as Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disability, Physical Disability or Chronic Health Impairment, Visual Impairment, Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Autism Spectrum Disorder) **\$20,200** (increase of \$800/student).

For each **Level 3** headcount student (includes students identified as Intensive Behaviour Interventions or Serious Mental Illness) **\$10,250** (increase of \$450/student).

FISA is thankful to the Ministry of Education for this increase in funding which supports independent schools’ work with their vulnerable student populations.

Supplemental funding compliance audits continue to be in effect for public and independent schools. The Ministry selects districts and independent schools for participation based on a variety of factors, including the length of time since their last audit, the district’s or independent school’s incidence levels compared to the provincial incidence levels, and changes in enrolment. When selected for a supplemental funding audit schools are typically given six-weeks notice. The purpose of the audit is to ensure that schools are complying with the instructions contained in Form 1701 and to provide assurance that the students reported are receiving services and have been placed in the appropriate special education category. The Ministry may reclaim any portion of the supplemental funding if proper procedures and documentation are found lacking. Schools may want to contact Joanne Armstrong, Compliance Program Lead, at Joanne.Armstrong@gov.bc.ca to inquire about arranging a mock audit to assist in ensuring that all requirements are being met. While the costs associated with a mock audit are paid for by the school, the investment could prevent substantial special needs funding claw backs.





Safe School Coordinators Meeting

The Ministry of Education conducts an annual meeting for district-level, FISA association-level, and First Nations Safe School Coordinators. For this year's meeting to be held in Richmond on Oct. 28-29, twenty seats have been allocated to be distributed among the five FISA member associations. Please contact your association office if you are interested in representing your association at this event.

Increased Funding for Mental Health Supports



Ministry of
Education

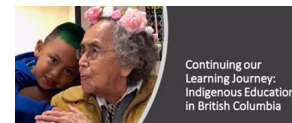


Ministry of
Mental Health
and Addictions

In a joint statement from the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health and Addictions, the government has pledged an additional \$8.87 million in funding, over the next three years, for mental health and wellness supports for schools.

FISA appreciates this government's recognition of the challenges mental health concerns play in the lives of BC learners, their families and those dedicated to their learning development and care. We will be meeting with Ministry officials in the near future to determine the funding allocation to independent schools and the mental health and wellness initiatives the funding may be used to support. More information forthcoming.

Ministry of Education Indigenous Education Resources



The Ministry of Education continues to develop resources to support the infusion of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into BC classrooms. Independent schools are encouraged to make full use of the new online professional development resource *"Continuing Our Learning Journey: Indigenous Education in BC."* The four short video modules and accompanying facilitator's guide, case studies, and discussion prompts allow for this resource to be widely used as part of staff meetings, pro-d workshops, and study groups. Look for two more upcoming resources: *Indigenous Education Resource Inventory* and *Indigenous Knowledge Perspectives in K-12 Curriculum* coming soon.



ARTSTARTS



The deadline for the FISA managed Artist in Education (AIE) grant is fast approaching. Independent schools have until Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 to submit an application to the FISA office. Applications are available at www.fisabc.ca under the "Services" tab. The AIE grant is a simple half-page application and is intended to support professional artists offering stand-alone school performances in the areas of theatre, music, visual arts, literary arts, and dance. FISA thanks ArtStarts, the BC Arts Council and the Province of BC for allocating nearly \$25,000 to independent schools (Group 1, 2, 3, and 4) through AIE grants.

ArtStarts also has a variety of other grants available. See <https://artstarts.com/grants> for a full listing. Popular among independent schools is the Artists in the Classroom (AIC) grant which is intended to provide an extended opportunity for children and youth to engage in hands-on arts experiences under the guidance of professional artists. Selected schools receive up to \$3500 for small-scale projects and up to \$10,000 for large-scale projects. The AIC grant is awarded through a juried selection process managed by ArtStarts. Applications are due to the ArtStarts office by Oct. 22, 2019.

A catalogue of funded AIC projects can be found on the ArtStarts website <https://artstarts.com/aicprojects>. Congratulations to the following FISA member schools for receiving an AIC grant in 2018/2019.

Comox Valley Waldorf School, Courtenay - *Screen Printing Classroom Art*, \$6,312

Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School, North Vancouver - *The Firefly Project*, \$3,490

Penelakut Island School, Penelakut Island - *Sing. Dance. Drum*, \$10,000

Selkirk Montessori School, Victoria - *Stories Alive*, \$1,654

St. Patrick's School, Victoria - *Exploring Identity through Art and FPPL*, \$3,500

Summerland Montessori School, Summerland - *Moving tales: Rhythm, movement, and storytelling*, \$2,100

The Whole School, Winlaw - *Considering the Whole*, \$3,500

Westside Montessori Academy, Vancouver - *Exploration in Drawing and Painting*, \$2,800



French Grant



For the 2018-2019 school year, FISA had the pleasant task of distributing \$430,774 to independent schools as part of the French Grant. This federal funding supports the costs incurred by schools offering Core French and French Immersion classes. Individual school amounts are calculated based on Form 1701 submissions. Please ensure that your school is accurately reporting Core French and French Immersion enrolment in order to receive this funding.

FSA Marking Reimbursement

FISA is pleased to announce that the Ministry of Education will continue to support collaborative FSA marking sessions where two or more schools come together to score student booklets. Last year 110 people from 40 schools participated in session throughout the province. These marking sessions range from two neighbouring schools agreeing to meet after school to associations arranging marking events where hundreds of booklets are scored by a team of markers. More information regarding expenses eligible for reimbursement and a claim form can be found at www.fisabc.ca under the “Services” tab “Forms and Applications.” Claim forms are due to the FISA office by Dec. 13, 2019.



Shoulder Tappers

Sean Engbers and Herb Krul have again been seconded by the Ministry of Education to assist independent schools in developing skills, trades and technology programs in schools, and to develop partnerships with industry, post-secondary and public sector organizations. Sean can be reached at sengbers@surreychristian.com or 604-807-2073 and Herb at hkrul@timothychristian.ca or 604-316-6128. FISA encourages schools to take advantage of their depth of expertise and enthusiasm for supporting schools in developing robust programs in these essential areas.

Cardus Research Report



Cardus, a Canadian independent think tank, recently released a research report *Who Chooses Independent Schools in British Columbia and Why?* This very complimentary report showcases the pivotal role independent schools play in providing educational choice and quality school experience for BC families. Some of the highlights include the finding that a stunning 91% of parents with children enrolled in independent schools are highly satisfied with their choice. Additionally, the study found that the parents of independent school students are civically engaged, and ethnically and linguistically diverse, with over half making significant sacrifices to send their kids to independent schools. FISA encourages schools to review the full report and to share it with your school community. It is through our collective efforts that independent schools continue to grow and thrive in BC. Thank you!



Our Deepest Gratitude

Ahlich (Fred) Herst



Sadly, Mr. Fred Herst, the second Executive Director of FISA serving an incredible 25 years, passed away this summer. Doug Lauson, former FISA President, expressed words of condolence on behalf of independent schools as part of the memorial service. We all are forever in debt to Fred for his passionate leadership and the immense role he played to achieve the present environment BC independent schools find themselves in today. Please take a minute to thank those early pioneers in your school community for building the future that you now enjoy.

Premier's Awards for Excellence In Education



FISA congratulates Mr. Antony Wilson, IB English teacher and Head of Global Engagement and Service Learning at Mulgrave School, West Vancouver for being one of three finalists in the category of Social Equity & Diversity for the Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education. This award was created to recognize the enormous contributions of BC's exceptional teachers, administrators and support staff that are vital to the cultural, economic and social well-being of the province. Winners receive a \$3,000 personal bursary for professional learning, and a \$2,000 contribution to their school community for professional learning. The Awards are presented annually to exceptional education professionals working in public, independent or First Nations schools. This year's winners will be announced at a special ceremony on October 4, 2019. We are all cheering for you Mr. Wilson!



Board of Directors

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Vice President – Elizabeth Moore, Executive Director,
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De Jager Volkenant & Company

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Surrey Christian School



Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence



FISA extends hearty congratulations to Jennifer Henrichsen, IPS assistant head and teacher at Island Pacific School for winning a 2019 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. Ms. Henrichsen was one of 25 award winners across Canada and was recognized for her leadership and innovative teaching practices in digital and creative literacy, global citizenship and community involvement, and supporting student success. This is an incredible achievement for Ms. Henrichsen, Island Pacific School, and the Independent School Association of BC (ISABC). Nominations are now open for the 2020 competition and can be found at https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/pmte-ppmee.nsf/eng/h_wz00010.html

