



Coming Soon: Convention 2016!

FISA BC's mission is to protect parents' right to choose the kind of education given to their children, and to safeguard the autonomy of independent schools. FISA BC was formed in 1966 after extensive discussion among the diverse independent schools in BC. Eleven years of subsequent political action resulted in 30% funding for operations in 1977. The Sullivan Commission in 1989 increased government funding from 30% of operating costs to 50% for Group 1 schools and 35% for Group 2 schools. In the intervening years, FISA BC has protected independent schools from erosion of government funding, procured full funding for special needs students, initiated Distance Learning, and strengthened statutory property tax exemption for independent schools.

To celebrate 50 years of voluntary collaboration among independent schools, FISA BC is presenting Convention 2016 on Feb. 4 & 5, 2016. The Convention will feature a number of high profile Canadian and International speakers, addressing topics relating to innovation in education that align with the Ministry of Education curriculum revision initiative. Each association will be represented by one alumnus who has contributed significantly to the public good. Twenty current independent school educators will present inspirational Ed Talks in specific subject areas. Student groups from independent schools will perform during coffee and lunch breaks, and at the gala dinner on the evening of Feb. 4.

With over 5000 delegates in attendance, we recommend that each participant select the Session Speakers and Ed Talks from the website at www.fisabc-convention2016.com/ that are of most interest and to be sure to arrive at the selected rooms well in advance of the beginning of the relevant sessions. Due to the large number of delegates at the Convention we are unable to offer preregistration for these sessions, so seating will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

We would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the individuals and companies that have chosen to support Convention 2016 financially and/or contribute door prizes. We are also grateful for the many volunteers who have offered to ensure that things run smoothly during the event. Staff of the CISVA schools administrative offices are tweeting Convention news, preparing the Convention program, and assisting to coordinate the gala dinner. Over 70 exhibitors have purchased booths and more applications arrive daily. This event could not take place without significant participation from many people. We are deeply grateful to all those who are working hard to make this event a success, and fully expectant that all delegates will return to their schools rejuvenated and inspired to the crucial task of encouraging their students to become caring and contributing members of society.

Please check the website regularly for updates.

Federation of
Independent School
Associations in British
Columbia

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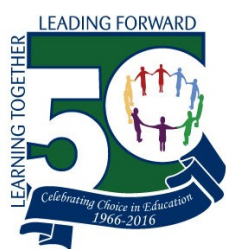
Executive Director:
Peter Froese

Executive Assistant:
Magda Hogewoning



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Convention 2016 SPEAKER SPONSORS

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Group Ltd.



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+ WILL

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SCHOOL



Convention 2016 Keynote Speakers

Daniel Pink



Daniel H. Pink is the author of five best-selling books about business, work, and management. His books have been translated into 34 languages and have sold more than two million copies worldwide.

Pink's latest work, *To Sell is Human: The Surprising Truth About Moving Others*, reveals the three personal qualities and three specific skills necessary to persuade, influence, and move others. *To Sell is Human* is a #1 *New York Times* business best seller, a #1 *Wall Street Journal* business

best seller, and a #1 *Washington Post* nonfiction best seller. His TED Talk about the science of motivation is one of the 10 most-watched TED Talks of all time.

In 2013, Thinkers 50 named him one of the top 15 business thinkers in the world. A free agent himself, he held his last real job in the White House, where he served from 1995 to 1997 as chief speechwriter for Vice President Al Gore.

Chris Hadfield



In 1992, Chris Hadfield was one of four new Canadian astronauts chosen from 5330 applicants. In the next 20 years, he served as the voice of mission control to astronauts in space, provided support for shuttle launches, worked as director of operations for NASA at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre in Star City, Russia, and served as chief of International Space Station Operations at the Johnson Space Center. In 2001 became the first Canadian to free float in space.

Hadfield is most famous for his five-month command of the International Space Station December 2012 to May 2013, from where he offered observations and posted photographs via his Twitter feed, and with the assistance of his son Evan, produced a music video of David Bowie's "Space Oddity."

Charles Fadel



Charles Fadel is a global education thought leader, expert, futurist and inventor; founder and chairman of the Centre for Curriculum Redesign; visiting scholar at Harvard GSE; Chair of the education committee at BIA/OECD; co-author of the best-selling book *21st Century Skills: Learning for Life in Our Times*; founder and president of the Fondation Helvetica Education (Geneva, Switzerland); senior fellow, human capital at The Conference Board; senior fellow at P21.org.

Charles has worked with education systems and institutions in more than thirty countries. He was formerly Global Education Lead at Cisco Systems, visiting scholar at MIT ESG and UPenn CLO, and angel investor with Beacon Angels. He holds a BSEE, an MBA, and five patents.

PURCHASE TICKETS!

The few remaining Convention Tickets may be purchased by clicking on the link below: <http://www.fisabc-convention2016.com/#!register/c24vq>. Click the "Purchase Ticket" button in the middle of the page. This will direct you to the Eventbrite site where you may register for a general admission ticket for \$250.00 and a box lunch for \$26.00. Tickets to the Gala Dinner will be available for \$150.00 on the same web page after January 8, 2016.

Convention 2016 Session Speakers

Kimberly L. Mitchell



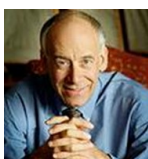
Kimberly Mitchell is the Founder & CEO of Inquiry Partners, a global professional development organization dedicated to helping teachers implement inquiry-based instruction. She works part-time at the University of Washington's College of Education, and serves as Chair of the International Baccalaureate Organization Americas Regional Council, and Board Chair at Green Dot Public Schools of Washington.

Yong Zhao



Dr. Yong Zhao is an internationally known scholar, author, and speaker. His works focus on the implications of technology on education. He has designed schools that cultivate global competence, developed computer games for language learning, and founded research institutions to explore innovative education models. He has published over 100 articles and 20 books, including *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Dragon?*

Alan November



Alan November is an international leader in education technology. He began his career on an island reform school for boys in Boston Harbor. In Lexington, MA, Alan was probably the first teacher computer science teacher in the world to have a student project on line in 1984, a database for the handicapped. He has helped schools, governments and industry leaders improve quality of education through technology.

Christopher Gaze



Christopher Gaze is best known as the Founding Artistic Director of Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival, which enjoyed an attendance of over 100,000 in its 2014 season. He has appeared in dozens of film, TV and theatre productions in Great Britain and North America. Christopher is well known as a leading advocate for the arts in British Columbia.

Amy Burvall



A Humanities teacher for over 20 years, Amy Burvall is a leader in educational technology professional development programs. After teaching Theory of Knowledge at Le Jardin Academy International Baccalaureate, she is now with John Kao's EdgeMakers as Vice President of Academic Affairs. Amy is known for her YouTube channel "History for Music Lovers," featuring history-based parody music videos.

SUPPORTING CORPORATE SPONSORS



Convention Program Schedule

THURSDAY MORNING

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 7:30-8:30 | Registration |
| 8:30-9:15 | Opening Ceremonies |
| 9:15-10:15 | Keynote: Daniel Pink |
| 10:15-11:15 | Coffee Break/Vendors/ Student Performances |
| 11:15-12:15 | Session 1 Speakers: Yong Zhao Alan November Kimberly Mitchell Christopher Gaze |
| 12:15-1:45 | Lunch/Book Signing/ Vendors/Performances |

THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING

| | |
|------------|---|
| 1:45-2:45 | Session 2: "Ed Talks" Five speakers per room See page 5 for details |
| 2:45-3:00 | Change rooms |
| 3:00-4:00 | Session 3 Speakers: Yong Zhao Alan November Kimberly Mitchell Amy Burvall |
| 6:00-10:00 | Gala Dinner Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront |

FRIDAY

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:00-8:30 | Registration/Networking |
| 8:30-9:00 | Minister of Education FISA BC Video |
| 9:00-10:00 | Session 4: FISA BC Graduates Karen Huebert-Sanchez Dr. Martina Scholtens (AMG) Senator Yonah Martin (CIS) Dr. Amy Lo (ISABC) Dr. Joel Pel (SCSBC) |
| (ACSI) | |
| 10:00-11:00 | Keynote: Charles Fadel |
| 11:00-12:00 | Coffee Break |
| 12:00-1:00 | Keynote: Col. Chris Hadfield |

Convention 2016 FISA BC Graduate Speakers



Dr. Amy Lo
ISABC
Observatory Alignment
Thread Lead,
JWST Program
Northrup Grumman
Aerospace Systems



Hon. Yonah Martin
CISBC
First Canadian of
Korean descent to
serve in the Senate
of Canada



Dr. Joel Pel
SCSBC
Head of Technology
Development
Boreal Genomics Inc.



Karen Huebert-Sanchez
ACSIBC
Director and Founder
of Abundant Life
Home Orphanage
and Church Planter



Dr. Martina Scholtens
AMG
Family Doctor

Convention 2016 Exhibitors (alphabetical by category)

Books and Educational Materials

Ben Minuk and Associates
Davies and Johnson
McGraw-Hill Education
Odin Books (1993) Inc. (Speakers' Books)
Pearson Canada
Perma-Bound
Scholastic Canada Ltd.
Teacher Wheel
United Library Services
Usborne Books
West Coast Centre for Learning

Educational Support and Pro D

Art Starts
BC Council for Exceptional Children
BC Wheelchair Basketball Society
Canucks Autism Network
Creative Children
Double Robotics
Handwriting Without Tears
I.T.T.T. Boards Inc.
Inquiry Adventures
Jonathan Morgan & Company Ltd.
JUMP Math
PBL Residency
Safer Schools Together
School Specialty Canada
Spectrum Educational Supplies

Online Resources

Achieve3000
myBlueprint

Online Resources (cont.)

StudyForge
Teacher Wheel

International Education

BC Council for International Education
International Schools of China
Maple Leaf Educational Systems

Playground Equipment & Recreation

Marathon Surfaces Inc.
RecTec Industries
Speed Badminton Canada
Social Conscience/Fair Trade
Suttle Recreation

Field Trips, Service Learning, Travel

Cheakamus Centre
EF Education First Tours
Joshua Expeditions
Whistler Blackcomb

Post-Secondary Education

Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre Pacific
Corpus Christi College
Fairleigh Dickinson University
St. Mark's College
Simon Fraser University Graduate Studies
Summit Pacific College
Trinity Western University
UBC - H.E.L.P.

Charitable/Christian

Amazing Amanda - the MAGIC Lady
Bead for Life
CHIMP
Creation Science Association of BC
Free the Children
Gospel for Asia
MFB Publications
Mercy Ships Canada
Summit Ministries Canada

First Nations

Deeper Connections Consulting
Strong Nations
Totally Cool Stories (Michael Kusugak)

Business/Retail

Columbia Business Systems
Purdys Chocolatier
Rack Fashions
Silver FX Inc.
Staples
Tinkerine Studios
Top Marks

Services

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office
Fortis BC
SAGE Dining Services
The Westland Insurance Group Ltd.

Book Sales and Book Signings!

Odin Books will be selling titles by the keynote and session speakers at their booth in the Exhibit Hall on Thursday, and in the Ballroom Foyer on Friday. Charles Fadel, Alan November, and Yong Zhao will be available immediately after their talks to sign books. Daniel Pink and Chris Hadfield will pre-sign bookplates for the first two hundred purchasers. Don't miss out!

Convention 2016 "Ed Talks"

Seating will be first come first served in the Ed Talks and Session Speakers events. Please be early so you have time to go to another room if your chosen one is at capacity.

Ballroom A

Jim Christopher – AMG – Kenneth Gordon School

"Grit is for Sandpaper: Creating a Productive Environment for Reluctant Learners"

Heather Clayton – ISABC – St. Michaels University School

"Transforming our Stories: From Rut to River"

Dave Loewen – SCSBC – Surrey Christian School

"Moving Toward Authentic Community in Our Schools: Diversity and Discourse"

Jodie Sussex – CISVA – St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School

"De-Grading Elementary School: Motivating Children to Learn not Earn!"

Ann Walters – ISABC – Crofton House School

"Turning real life into real inspiration!"

Ballroom B

Lauren Citton – CISVA – Notre Dame Regional Secondary School

"'I Don't Speak Boy' A Teacher's Tale of Gamification in an All-Boys English Classroom"

Sarah Marshall – ISABC – Aspengrove School

"Anyone Can Do It: Educators as Social Coaches"

Michael Moore – ISABC – Mulgrave School

"Developing 21st Century Skills: One School's Journey"

Saima Naz – AMG – iLearn DL Secondary School

"My Community. My School. Blurring the Lines Between Community and School"

Darren Spyksma – SCSBC – SCSBC Office

"What Would be Different if Your Students Built Your Year Plan?"

Ballroom C

Robin Barton – ISABC – St. John's School

"High Level Ignorance: Doubt and Uncertainty as Powerful Tools for Student Learning"

Johnny Bevacqua – CISVA – Vancouver College

"From Teacher to Learner: A Catalyst to Reimagining School"

Meg Chamberlin – ISABC – Collingwood School

"Global Citizenship and International Service Learning"

Suzanne Huopalaianen – ISABC – Fraser Academy

"You Don't Know What You Don't Know: Executive Function!"

Rabbi Don Pacht – AMG – Vancouver Hebrew Academy

"The Big Picture: Connecting the Dots for Our Students"

Room 301-305

Lisa Clarke – AMG – SDABC/West Coast Adventist DL School

"'On Belay': Supporting Risk-Taking in Learning"

Chris Dugdale – CISPG – Superintendent CISPG

"From Isolation to Connected, Dynamic Learning Communities"

Ted Spear – ISABC – Island Pacific School

"What Education Could Be: Reformulating Education One Remarkable Initiative at a Time"

Graham Nickel – ACSI – Mennonite Educational Institute

"Moving Forward by Looking Backward"

Susan Vachon – ISABC – St. Michaels University School

"Why Basic Skills Matter in the 21st Century"

Federation of Independent School
Associations
in British Columbia

Convention Student Music Performance Groups

THURSDAY

MEI Screaming Eagles

Marching Band

St. Mary's Elementary Choir

MEI Chamber Choir

MEI Concert Choir

Little Flower Academy Chamber
Choir

GALA DINNER

Brockton Preparatory School

World Music Program:

Senior Specialized Ensemble

St. Patrick Regional Secondary
School Chamber Choir

FRIDAY

Meadowridge Handbell Choir

Brockton World Music Program

Door Prize Donors

PINNACLE HOTEL
HARBOURFRONT

Two Night Stay plus Parking plus
Breakfast for Two



Vancouver Marriott
Pinnacle Downtown

One night stay in city view room



Landsea Tours &
Adventures
Whistler Tour for Two



Pan Pacific
Vancouver
Brunch for Four



London Drugs
Gift Certificates



FlyOver Canada
Two Admissions



Old Spaghetti Factory
Gift Certificate



**Thank you
for Bill 29**

**Funding is being
provided to
each association
to develop
workshops for
teachers...on how
we can personalize
the learning of
students**



FISA BC Board News

Bill 29 – Property Taxation (Exemptions) Statutes Amendment Act, 2015

The statutory property tax exemption legislation for independent schools is now law. Bill 29 was approved unanimously in the Legislature on September 30th and received Royal Assent on November 17th, 2015. This means that all property that is reasonably necessary for providing an educational program equivalent to the public sector will now receive a statutory property tax exemption. Any additional lands, such as endowment land, holding property or adjacent land that is currently not used for instruction, may still be granted a permissive exemption from the municipality under the *Community Charter*, s 224, h.1, at the request of the independent school authority.

Independent schools would like to thank the government for hearing our concern and providing school authorities with strengthened legislation on property tax exemption. School authorities are encouraged to write the Finance Minister, Hon. Michael De Jong, Q.C., a letter of appreciation for enabling this legislation. His email address is mike.dejong.mla@leg.bc.ca.

Our thanks also to Scott Bowden from Colliers International and Jim Fraser from Lawson Lundell LLP for their support in providing consulting and legal advice during the past three years. Thanks also to Charles De Jager, FISA BC board member, for his wise counsel on these matters.

Professional Development Funds

The Ministry of Education has provided funding to assist independent schools in supporting teachers in implementing the new curriculum, which is currently in an exploratory phase for K-9 during the 2015-16 school year. All K-9 schools will begin implementing the new curriculum in 2016-17. Grades 10-12 will begin implementation in 2018-19.

FISA BC has committed independent schools to provide up to 10 hours of professional development on the new curriculum in a manner that best suits the associations and/or independent schools. Public schools are also providing similar professional development for teachers on the new curriculum.

Funding is being provided to each association to develop professional development workshops for teachers. Associations have agreed to invite other independent schools to professional development workshops whenever space is available.

FISA BC encourages independent school authorities to work together in developing a better understanding of how we can personalize the learning of students in our schools. The following link provides schools with some useful resources on what is changing in the curriculum as well as how this might look in the classroom: <http://www.bctf.ca/IssuesInEducation.aspx?id=38416>. (There are a number of links under Curriculum Framework Document – Stage Two).

Survey for Healthy Schools BC

Healthy Schools BC is a provincial strategy involving a partnership between the Ministries of Health and Education, DASH, health authorities, education partners, and other stakeholders. If you are an educator or administrator in a BC school, please complete a 10 minute, confidential online survey at <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/HSBC-schools2016/> and be entered for a chance to win one of three iPad minis! Please complete the survey only once. The survey will close on January 15th, 2016.

If you have questions about the evaluation, please contact Kerry MacKelvie O'Brien at kmackelvie@contextresearch.ca.

President's Annual Report for 2014-2015



FISA BC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November 25, 2015

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

- Albert Einstein

STATISTICS:

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

| Association | # Schools | Enrolment | % of Total |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| ACSIBC | 27 | 15,032 | 18.7 |
| AMG | 121 | 19,921 | 24.9 |
| CIS | 77 | 21,878 | 27.3 |
| ISABC | 26 | 12,938 | 16.2 |
| SCSBC | 37 | 10,311 | 12.9 |
| Total | 288 | 80,080 | 100 |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Total number of independent schools in BC | 363 |
| Total number of FISA BC member schools | 290 |
| Total membership enrolment | 80,080 |
| Increase in FISA BC member enrollment | 7,326 |
| Percentage increase FTE | 6.75% |
| Total public school enrolment (HC) | 552,788 |
| Total independent school enrolment (HC) | (adjusted) 80,783 |
| Total number of students taking at least one course at an independent school | 85,970 |
| Percentage of independent school students - FTE | 13.1% |
| Total independent DL students (HC) | 8,640 |
| Total FTE in public schools | 536,895 |
| Total FTE in independent schools | 79,348 |
| Total FTE | 616,243 |
| Grants for Group 1 & 2 independent schools | \$277,099,336 |
| Special Needs Grant –Group 1, 2, and DL | \$64,272,176 |
| Total funding for independent schools | \$341,501,893 |

The government has maintained the funding for BC Education at \$5.35 billion, under which independent schools are allocated 5.3% of the overall budget to educate 12.3% of the overall enrollment. These general figures include funding that independent schools do not have access to, such as the increase of the Learning Improvement Fund from \$60 million to \$75 Million.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

At the November 2014 AGM two new members joined the Board of Directors: Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) appointed Phil Hills to replace long-serving Ray Sutton and the Catholic Independent Schools of BC (CISBC) appointed Bev

Pulyk to replace Joe Colistro. The elected Executive Officers are: Doug Lauson (CISBC, President), Elizabeth Moore (ISABC, Vice President), Ed Noot (SCSBC, Treasurer), Harry Moes (AMG, Secretary) and Dave Neufeld (ACSI, Member-at-large). My thanks must be expressed to long-serving Henry Contant (SCSBC) and Don Hincks (ISABC) for their years of service to the Board. The Board's best wishes are extended to them as they enter retirement.

FISA BC MANDATE UPDATE:

In September 2013, the FISA BC Board of Directors adopted a new mandate that set three priorities: (a) improved access to unused public property, (b) access to low interest loans from government for capital projects to improve student safety and develop trades skills/training programs for high school students, (c) secure legislation to exempt independent school properties wholly used for education from local municipal permissive property taxes.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF FISA BC:

FISA BC will be celebrating its golden anniversary by hosting a Province-wide Convention at the Vancouver Convention Centre West on February 4-5, 2016. The convention registration (5,000+) was sold out in two days and there are still many who would like to attend, but we are restricted by the fire regulations at the Convention Centre. Daniel Pink (Opening Keynote), Chris Hadfield (Closing Keynote) and other speakers, including Charles Fadel, Yong Zhao, Alan November, Kimberly Mitchell, Christopher Gaze and Amy Burvall, have been confirmed. The theme, *Learning Together: Leading Forward*, complements well FISA BC's 50 years of supporting choice in education. A Gala Dinner will be held on Thursday evening, February 4, 2016 at the Pinnacle Harbourfront Hotel. My thanks to the Convention Planning Committee under the leadership of Elizabeth Moore, for the good work it is doing to ensure the success of this milestone event in BC history.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION:

FISA BC welcomed the appointments of Hon. Mike Bernier (Minister of Education, replacing Hon. Peter Fassbender), Dave Byng (Deputy Minister, replacing Rob Wood), and Simon Gibson (Parliamentary Secretary, replacing Marc Dalton). FISA BC looks forward to working with the new Ministry leadership team in upholding the excellent education system of BC. A special thanks must be said to Hon. Peter Fassbender (now Minister of Community, Sport, Cultural Development and Minister responsible for Translink) for the leadership that he showed in education during his term as a Minister of Education. Thank you, Hon. Fassbender. Also, the Federation is very grateful to Marc Dalton who served as the Parliamentary Secretary for independent schools for several years. Mr. Dalton came to understand independent schools and provided the independent school sector with valuable guidance and assistance in his portfolio.

The Federation continues to work collaboratively with all levels of government, particularly with Brian Jonker (Executive Director, Education Sector Organizational Excellence Branch) and Theo VandeWeg (Inspector of Independent schools).

LEGISLATION AFFECTING INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS:

Permissive Property Tax Exemption Act (PPTE):

- ◆ The FISA BC administration spent a large majority of its time devoted to achieving PPTE for all independent schools in the province. As was reported last year, the Municipality of Lantzville had denied PPTE to Aspengrove School and the Municipality of Victoria had planned to reduce the PPTE in its municipality by 5% per year over 10 years to 50%. There were several municipalities through the Province who were considering similar PPTE reductions. For example, the City of Nelson removed the PPTE for one year and then subsequently reintroduced it. If all independent schools were to lose the PPTE, the additional financial burden would have been enormous, possibly causing the closure of some smaller independent schools.
- ◆ During the past year, FISA BC continued its legal and legislative actions towards resolving the PPTE issue. It met with the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), various government officials from different levels of government, MLAs and Ministers including the Ministers of Education and Finance, as well as the official Opposition. As a result of these efforts and working in collaboration with all parties, Bill 29 (Property Taxation (Exemptions) Statutes Amendment Act) was introduced May 28, 2015 and passed September 30, 2015. The Opposition voted with the Government.
- ◆ On behalf of all the independent schools in the Province of British Columbia, I would like to thank the Government and official Opposition for understanding and acknowledging that independent schools provide a public service to over 81,000 children in BC.

Society Act:

- ◆ On October 15, 2014, FISA BC responded to the Society Act White Paper and was invited to a consultation meeting with the Minister of Finance for further input. The Society Act was given Royal Assent on May 14, 2015. All societies, including independent schools, have two years to be in compliance with the Act by updating their Constitutions and Bylaws.

Education Statutes Amendment Act (Bill 11):

- ◆ This bill is designed to reduce K-12 overhead costs, improve student information systems, ensure that teachers receive consistent professional development and provide stronger accountability for the learning outcomes of students. FISA BC has been actively involved in the implementation.

EDUCATION ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA**Public School Strike:**

Unfortunately, the 2014-15 school year started with the public schools still on strike from the previous year. The strike ended in October with a 7.25% increase in salary over six years to public school teachers. During this period FISA BC provided over three dozen media interviews on independent school issues such as special needs students, enrollment selectivity, teacher qualifications, curriculum, and enrollment growth. For the 2014-15 school year, independent schools enrollment increased by 5,024 FTE (6.75%) to 80,783. This includes cross enrollment in independent DL schools. Growth occurred in all five FISA BC associations with a minimum increase of 3.7%.

Finances:

On average, the provincial recalculated grant increased for Group 1 schools by \$102/FTE and \$71/FTE for group 2 schools. The provincial budget included \$310.5 million for independent schools for 2015-16 that included an increase of \$29.8 million to align the budget with actual costs.

The Learning Improvement Fund for public schools to deal with class composition issues was increased to \$75 million. Even though research shows that the majority of independent schools have the same classroom composition issues, they are not provided with proportional LIF funding. The FISA BC will strive to negotiate with government to achieve proportional funding for independent schools.

For all schools in BC, the special education grants for Levels 1, 2 and 3 were increased to provide additional support for identified students with special needs. On behalf of the thousands of special needs students enrolled in independent schools, I would like to thank the government for this increase – it will assist schools to better meet the needs of these children. There were also grant increases to Adult Education and Distributed Learning.

Focus on Learning:

The Minister of Education hosted a Focus on Learning Forum for educators and business representatives to discuss the global challenge of moving BC ahead in educational transfor-

mation. He also announced the Innovation Partner Working Group to promote educational innovation at the school level. Independent schools are a full partner in this process, along with the BC Teachers Federation, BC School Superintendents Association and BC Principals and Vice Principals Association.

Provincial Committee Appointments:

Elizabeth Moore (ISABC) and Shawn Chisholm (CISBC) have been appointed by the Minister to the Independent School Teaching Certificate Standards Committee (ISTCSC), along with Lloyd Robinson (AMG). Doug Stam (SCSBC) has agreed to be the independent school representative on the Special Education Technology BC (SET BC) and the Accessible Resource Centre (ARC BC). Jennifer Tong (CIS) is also a SET BC representative. In addition, independent school teachers were included in provincial curriculum committees for English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Arts Education.

FISA BC ACTIVITIES:

The FISA BC Board continues to work at matters concerning effective and efficient operation of the Federation including:

- ◆ Seeking funding equity for the few independent schools that exclusively enroll students with needs that require special programs. A brief was submitted to the Ministry in January 2015.
- ◆ Survey of Independent Schools in BC: The Illuminate Consulting Group was contracted to do a longitudinal study on the success of independent school graduates. The final report was presented October 22nd, 2014. The survey included 25 profiles of graduates that have graduated from independent schools, as well as trajectories in post-secondary education, employment and community involvement.
- ◆ Provincial Dogwood District Awards: 446 applications were submitted from member schools. After much deliberation, the sub-committee of the Board awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to each of 372 graduates. In February 2015, the Ministry began a review of the Scholarship and Awards program with the view to better support stu-



*Somehow not only for Christmas
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.*
~ John Greenleaf Whittier ~



dents. FISA BC is a participating member in the review.

- ◆ Investment Policy: In keeping with due diligence in executing its fiduciary duty, the Board passed an investment policy to govern the investment of reserve funds.
- ◆ Eye See...Eye Learn Program: The BC Doctors of Optometry have now included independent schools in this program of support that provides Kindergarten students with prescriptive free eyewear. The FISA BC thanks the Doctors of Optometry Association for their support of British Columbian children.
- ◆ Relocation: After decades at its downtown location, on March 2, 2015, the FISA BC moved its office to 4885 Saint John Paul II Way at West 33rd and Willow Streets in Vancouver. The facilities of the new building has allowed the Federation to host many more committee meetings. The monthly Board meetings are now held in the Board Room as opposed to an offsite location.
- ◆ New Member Schools: After a process of consultation, visitation and recommendation, the Board of Directors voted to accept as members the following schools: ArtsCalibre Academy (Victoria), Beachcombers Community School (Fanny Bay), KLEOS Open Learning (DL) School (Kelowna), Vancouver International College (New Westminster).

STAFFING:

To supervise the upcoming 50th Anniversary

Convention, Ms. Bonnie Chant was hired on a part-time basis as the Event Coordinator.

THANKS:

FISA BC is a federation of five associations, each with a number of schools: ISABC (26), ACSI (27), SCSBC (37), CISBC (77) and AMG (121). It is on behalf of these member schools that the Board of Directors and the administrative staff operate. To the members of the Board of Directors, who represent the five associations and diversity of independent school education in BC, I express my sincere thanks for their leadership and diligence in decision-making. The past year has been filled with many opportunities and challenges and in all instances, I could count on the Board of Directors to execute its responsibilities in a fair and prudent manner. Thank you.

To the administrative staff, Peter Froese, Executive Director, Magda Hogewoning, Executive Assistant and Ruth Froese, Office Assistant, I express my sincere gratitude for their ongoing support and dedication to the Federation. Their quality of work and willingness to go the extra mile are charisms that describe three people to whom the Federation must be eternally grateful. Peter, Magda and Ruth, please accept the sincere thanks of the Board of Directors for your dedication to the children of British Columbia.

Respectfully submitted

Doug Lauson

President



Board of Directors

President

Mr. Doug Lauson (CIS)

Vice-President

Dr. Elizabeth Moore (ISABC)

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Harry Moes (AMG)

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Ms. Beverly Pulyk

ISABC

Mr. Phil Graham

Ms. Maureen Steltman

SCSBC

Mr. Charles de Jager

Dr. Dave Loewen

Christmas Greetings!

The Board of Directors and staff of FISA BC extend our warmest wishes to all our associations and their schools for a happy holiday season. Thank-you for your continued efforts in giving each student a rich and rewarding education in the independent school of their choosing. May you find rest, happiness and peace as you enjoy the Christmas season with family and friends, as well as continued success and fulfillment in the New Year.

