

Federation News

Freedom
Involves Secure
Alternatives

The Official News Bulletin of the Federation of Independent School Associations

Issue: 175

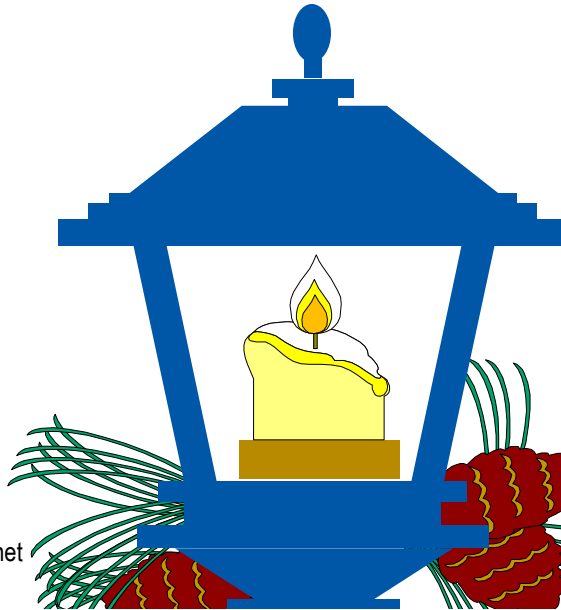
December 2006

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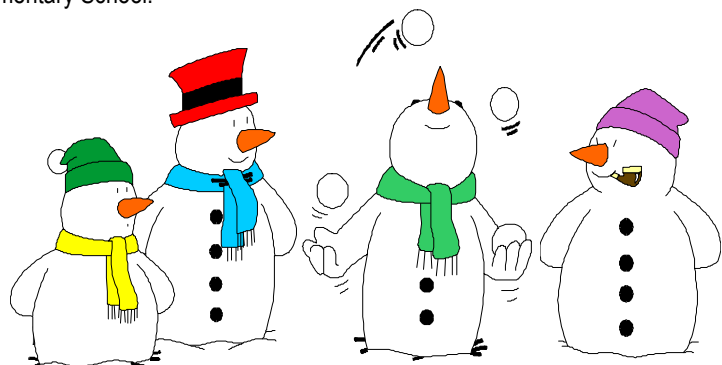
*The FISA office staff
wishes you and
yours all the joys
and blessings of
this festive
season*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Annual General Meeting of the FISA, held on November 22, 2006, the membership approved the audited financial statement for 2005-06, the budget for 2006-2007, and the actions and decisions of the Board of Directors to date. The meeting also received the report of the FISA President, Mr. Doug Lauson, printed in this issue of the *Federation News*.

FISA BOARD MEETING

At the Board meeting held immediately after the Annual General meeting on November 22 2006 Mr. Doug Lauson (Catholic Independent Schools) was re-elected as President; Mr. Henry Contant (Society of Christian Schools) was re-elected as vice-President; Ms. Marjorie Maclean (Associated Member Group) was elected as Secretary; Mr. Ray Sutton (Association of Christian Schools International) was re-elected as Treasurer; and Mr. Hugh Burke (Independent School Association) was elected as an ex-officio officer. In addition to the officers, the following directors continue to serve you. **The Association of Christian Schools International BC:** Ms. Kim Franklin, Professor, TWU; Peter Froese, Superintendent, Mennonite Educational Institute. **The Associate Member Group:** Mr. Mark Evans, Bank officer; Mr. Harry Moes, Principal, Credo Christian High School; Rabbi Don Pacht, Principal, Vancouver Hebrew Academy; Mr. Lloyd Robinson, Superintendent, Seventh-day Adventist Schools; and Ms. Elizabeth Wilby, Ret'd Principal, Vancouver Waldorf School. **The Catholic Independent Schools:** Mr. Joe Colistro, Superintendent, Victoria Diocese; Mr. Richard Kohlen, Businessman. **Independent Schools Association of B.C:** Mr. Hugh Burke, Head, Meadowridge School; Mr. J. McConnell, Head, Stratford Hall; **Society of Christian Schools:** Mr. Ariel De Jong, Lawyer; Mr. Bill Helmus, Principal, Pacific Christian Elementary School.



ADMINISTERED GRANTS SERVICES OF FISA

The existence of the FISA and its credibility as the voice for independent schools in BC gives other agencies the confidence to use the FISA as the co-ordinating or distributing agency for grants they provide. The following were made available to independent schools in the 2005-06 school year.

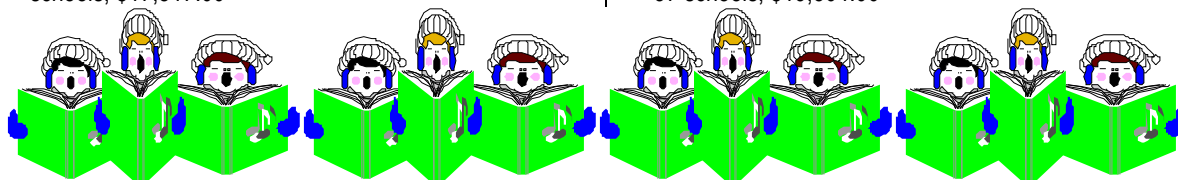
i) Artists in Education grants from the BC Arts Council and Vancouver Foundation through Art Starts, 56 schools, \$17,517.00

ii) French Language Basic Grants from the Federal Government through the Ministry of Education, all schools with French, \$272,367.00

iii) French Language Special Purpose grants from the Federal Government through the Ministry of Education, 28 schools, \$80,000.00

iv) School District scholarships from the Ministry of Education, 34 students, \$34,000.00

v) Social Services Tax Rebate from the Ministry of Finance, 37 schools, \$19,304.00



FISA PRESIDENT'S REPORT November 22, 2006

The last temptation is the greatest treason: To do the right deed for the wrong reason.

T.S. Eliot

STATISTICS:

In 2005-06, the total number of independent students was 66,235, an increase of 1,294 (increase of 1%). The total number of public school students continues to decline as predicted, estimated at 569,107. The FISA now represents 92% of the independent school enrolment in the province. Approximately 11% of the school-going children in the province now attend independent schools. Operational funding (50% and 35%) to independent schools has increased by approximately \$16 million since last year to \$193.4 million (\$171 million in per student operating grants to group 1 and 2 schools, \$6 million in operating grants to 10 DL schools, \$16 million in special education grants and \$400,000 to homeschoolers).

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION:

The FISA continues to develop and maintain a positive relationship with the Ministry on vital issues that affect independent schools. The FISA continues to receive recognition as the voice of independent schools, resulting in further gains in the areas of consultation, dialogue and finance. The work of the Federation over the past year can be diarized:

- October 2005: Establishment of Independent Schools BCeSIS group and iGroup
- November 2005: Initial discussions on the FISA membership requirements
- November 2005: Independent schools receive \$250,000 for Literacy Innovation
- January 2006: Mid-year Special Education funding applications introduced
- April 2006: Education (Learning Enhancement) Statutes Amendments Act – Bill 33
- July 2006: Minister of Education confirms rights of independent schools to teach curriculum from a faith-based perspective
- September 2006: The FISA invited to join Social Justice 12 curriculum writing team
- October 2006: The FISA invited to attend Premier's Teachers' Congress
- October 2006: BCCT invites the FISA to attend a dialogue re: Standards of the Teaching Profession
- November 2006: UBC School Leadership Centre invites dialogue with other stakeholders to address the induction, mentoring and succession of teachers new to the profession

The Federation, through its Executive Officers and Board of Directors continues to have very positive meetings with Minister of Education, Hon. Shirley Bond, Deputy Minister; Emery Dosedall, Lead Director Peter Owen; and the Inspector's Office: (Susan Penner, Ed Vanderboom, and Theo Vandeweg). These relationships are consultative with the sharing of ideas to provide a solid platform for the relationship between the Federation and the Ministry. My thanks go to each of the Board members for the roles that you play in fostering the mission of the Federation. In particular, I must once again thank Fred Herfst and Margaret Baldwin for the exemplary way that they execute their responsibilities.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING:

Subsequent to the Minister's announcement in September 2005, independent schools have had a year to adjust to full funding for those children with more significant special needs who are enrolled in independent schools. The process has been somewhat clarified and the addition of mid-year funding is appreciated. With increased funding comes increased accountability – both to the Ministry and to the students and their parents. This is to be expected. The FISA is constantly aware of the danger of increased control and governance, and the protection of independent school rights.

CORREN AND CORREN and MINISTRY OF EDUCATION:

In April 2006, the Ministry of Education signed an out-of-court settlement agreement with Peter and Murray Corren, thereby negating the need for the continuation of the formal hearing before the Human Rights Tribunal. The six-page agreement contains an explanation of the rights of public school parents with respect to alternate delivery, the description of the internal revision process guidelines that will be used as a framework when the Ministry reviews curriculum, the description of the new Social Justice 12 course, and the development of delivery guidelines for K-12 public schools.

In July 2006, in response to a letter from the FISA, the Minister of Education, Shirley Bond, confirmed that nothing in or flowing from the settlement agreement with the Correns will preclude group 1, 2 or 4 independent schools from teaching the curriculum from a faith-based perspective or would require them to teach learning outcomes that violate their religious faith.

BC COLLEGE OF TEACHERS:

The past year has seen the FISA/BCCT relationship strengthen with the involvement of the FISA in the continued development and re-writing of the BCCT Bylaws and revision of the *Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in British Columbia*. In the Spring of 2006 a team of FISA representatives attended the Wosk Center for Dialogue for two days to discuss the standards. This dialogue was part of the original implementation process when the standards were developed, with the FISA's full participation, in 2003. The FISA was invited by the BCCT in October 2006 to provide them with a formal brief and the opportunity for a one-on-one discussion. In the early summer, Mr. Dalip Singh Gill of Dasmesh Punjabi School was appointed to the BCCT Council as the Minister's appointment.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

After much discussion on this topic the FISA struck a subcommittee to review the membership requirements of the FISA Constitution. As a result, the subcommittee reported its findings to the Board of Directors at the April 26, 2006 meeting. The findings of the subcommittee

clarified the membership requirements and the conditions of membership. It also reviewed the philosophy of a member school. The board voted to take no action at this time.

STRATEGIC REVIEW:

At the FISA board meeting on September 27, 2006 the Board of Directors formally adopted *The Road Ahead* strategic planning document. This document was distributed to the five member associations in the early Spring of 2006 for review and feedback. The board members discussed the feedback received and formally accepted the document as the direction that the FISA would move in the next five to 10 years. The challenge we now face is the implementation of this strategic planning document. My sincere thanks go to the board members who developed the document, and in particular, Henry Contant who was the driving force leading to its successful completion and adoption.

FISA WEBSITE:

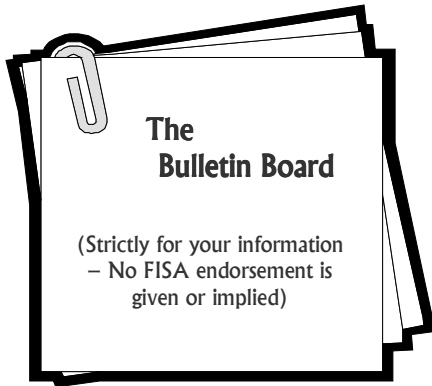
As part of The Road Ahead plan, the FISA has updated the Directory of Independent schools on the website (www.fisabc.ca) with active street and satellite maps. Each school was identified with a pushpin and a balloon descriptor that contains the member school information. The upgrade will continue to resolve the slowness of the loading of the satellite maps and will include modifications to the database of schools and additional information that can be actively searched.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ACT:

The revised Independent Schools Act Regulations and Orders were released in July 2006. The revisions are many, and have been explained at the regional tour of meetings throughout the province. Copies of the new Independent Schools Act are available on the independent school website. The changes have impact on how independent schools are administered and require careful monitoring in the implementation of the changes.

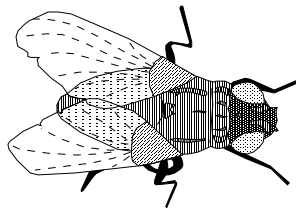
This past year has been an exciting year with new challenges and more importantly, new successes. The issue of the review and changes to the BC curriculum had the potential of fragmenting the FISA, but it didn't, and I believe we are a stronger organization for having had the discussion. In addition to the political issues that will arise next year, *The Road Ahead* document will provide the FISA with many topics for discussion. I look forward to another year in the growth of the Federation and I thank each of you for sharing in the vision and contributing to the intellectual capacity of the organization. In particular, my thanks to Barbara Emmerson, Ben Karmel, and Morian Perepelitza who have resigned from the Board to pursue their vocations.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Lauson - President



THE BUG LAB

The Bug Lab Invertebrate Museum is an educational facility for those who are interested in bugs. When you visit the Bug Lab you become a Junior Entomologist, a scientist who studies insects. Students and bug lovers (adults too) trade their coat for a lab jacket and a clipboard and study the bugs in the lab. Insects, scorpions, spiders, millipedes, centipedes and more are on display.



For programs at the Bug Lab –consult: www.thebuglab.com

SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2007 Special Education Assn. “Crosscurrents Conference” March 15-16, 2007 at the Westin Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver. This is a conference addressing special education issues for regular classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, special educators and parents.

Early bird fees:



Teachers: \$155 one day, \$215 two days. TAs and parents: \$145 one day, \$185 two days. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.bcrf/bc/ca/psas/SEA> or contact: Priscilla Fortier, Tel: (250) 964-3219, e-mail prisciallaf@shaw.ca



CSML

The Professional Specialization Certificate in School Management and Leadership is offered at U-Vic Faculty of Education.

For more information: www.educ.uvic.ca/csml or email abrophey@uvic.ca

FORUM FOR YOUNG CANADIANS

Forum for Young Canadians is a premier educational program of systems of government, leadership and citizenship in Canada. Four sessions are offered each year. For 2007 March 17-24, March 24-31, April 14-21 and April 21-28 are proposed. Visit the Forum website: www.forum.ca

WWW.EDUCATIONCAREERFAIRS.COM

Fraser Valley Education & Career Fair
Dec. 5, 2006 Tradex, Abbotsford
9.00 AM – 4.00 PM

Van. Island Education & Career Fair
Dec. 7, 2006 Victoria Conference Centre
9.00 AM – 4.00 PM

Vancouver Education & Career Fair
Jan. 24, 2007 Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
9.00 AM – 6.00 PM

Okanagan Education & Career Fair
Jan. 26, 2007 Grand Okanagan Resort, Kelowna
9.00 AM – 4.00 PM