

Federation News

Freedom
Involves Secure
Alternatives

The Official News Bulletin of the Federation of Independent School Associations

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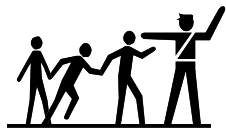
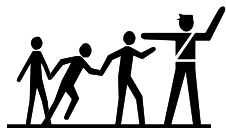
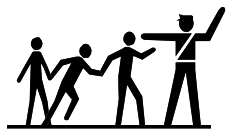
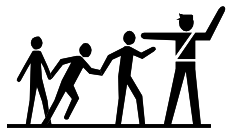
June 2007

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SOCIAL SERVICE TAX REBATE

The FISA sent information on the application process for the social service tax rebate to independent schools for their Parent Support Groups in June 2007. Parent Support Groups are reminded that the deadline for application submission, with receipts, is July 31, 2007, for the 2006-2007 school year.

DIRECT ACCESS GRANTS

Parent Support Groups of Group 1 or 2 independent schools which intend to apply for Direct Access Grants are reminded the deadline for application for the 2006-2007 year is June 30, 2007, with grants deposited by September 30, 2007. The form Application for PAC/DPAC Direct Access Funding may be downloaded

from:

www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming/index.htm

FRENCH LANGUAGE GRANTS

In April 2006-2007, a total of \$265,155 was distributed to independent schools for core French. A portion of a further \$80,000 for Special Purpose grants is being distributed as the applicants for 2006-2007 submit receipts. Applicants who have not yet submitted receipts are urged to do so by the end of June.

ARTISTS IN EDUCATION GRANTS

Application forms for the Artists in Education Grants were sent by E-mail to FISA member schools on June 4, 2007. The applications are due in the FISA office by 4.00 P.M. Friday September 14, 2007. The FISA thanks the BC Arts Council and the Vancouver Foundation for making it possible for performing artists to bring live productions to enhance the Fine Arts component of education. The \$17,500 grant is highly appreciated.

GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

The BC Legislature began the Spring sitting on February 13, 2007 and adjourned for the summer on May 31, 2007.

The Government passed five Bills that will have an impact on schools.

- Bill 10, the **Tobacco Sales (Banning Tobacco and Smoking in Public Places and Schools) Amendment Act, 2007**,

bans smoking on all public and independent school properties, effective September 2007. The FISA and other organization representatives will be attending a meeting on July 4, 2007 at the Wosk Center for Dialogue regarding implementation issues. Schools should anticipate having clear anti-smoking policies in place. The FISA will provide further information as it becomes available.

- Bill 16, the **Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act, 2007**,

will require criminal record checks to be carried out every five years. In addition, the Office of the Inspector of Independent Schools will now carry out a criminal record check for an applicant prior to issuing an independent school teacher certificate, a process similar to the one in place for issuing certificates by the BC College of Teachers. Implementation procedures and dates are being developed. Look for announcements in the Fall of 2007.

- Bill 20, the **School (Student Achievement Enabling) Amendment Act, 2007**,

changes the name of "School Boards" to "Boards of Education", creates the position of Superintendents of Achievement, expands the role of public school boards to include early learning and community literacy, changes "accountability contracts" to "achievement contracts", allows public school parents and students to appeal to Superintendents of Achievement, and allows certain school fees. PEN numbers may be assigned to early learners. All these amendments apply to public schools.

The preamble to the Independent School Act is amended by changing the phrase “become personally fulfilled” to “become literate, personally fulfilled”. Independent schools can anticipate an increased emphasis on assuring that all students maximize their abilities in literacy.

- Bill 21, the **Teaching Profession (Teacher Registration) Amendment Act, 2007**,

will create the requirement for the BC College of Teachers to create a registry of persons for whom they have issued a teaching certificate, indicating the status of the certificate as well as any disciplinary actions taken with respect to anyone in the registry. This portion of the registry will be available to the public. Another portion of the registry will list the work history of a teacher and will be accessible only to employers of teachers. A registry with similar provisions will also be created by the Office of the Inspector of Independent Schools for teachers holding Independent School Teacher Certificates.

Employers will be required to annually submit a list of teacher employees to the BC College of Teachers and the Office of the Inspector of Independent Schools in order to maintain the currency of the employment portion of the registries.

Investigations may be ordered by the Minister for public schools, and the Inspector of Independent Schools, if there is a failure to report disciplinary actions taken with respect to a teacher.

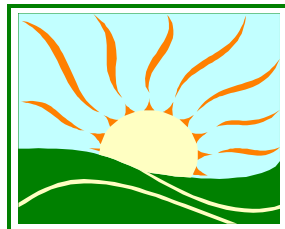
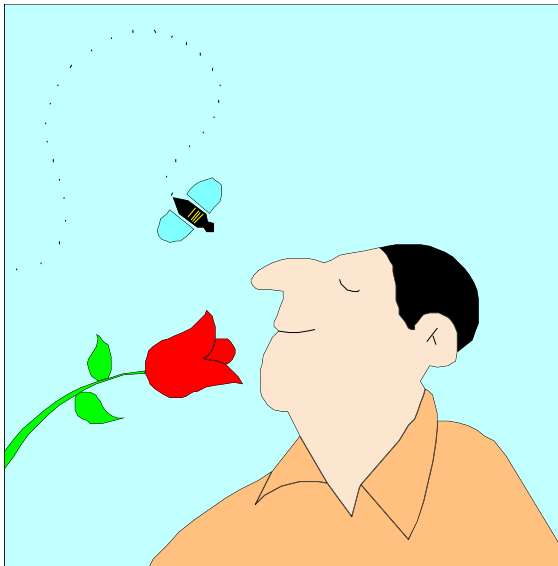
Implementation procedures and dates await clarification and development of registries. The FISA will provide updates as they become available.

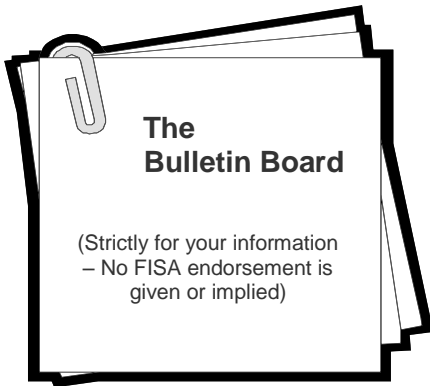
- Bill 22, the **Education Statutes Amendment Act, 2007**,

amends the Independent School Act by clarifying that the Minister issues the BC certificate of graduation. It also empowers the Minister to reimburse a student taking courses outside of “regular” school for some or all expenses for that course. Similar provisions apply to public schools. Public schools will be required to establish student codes of conduct. They will also need to provide more public information about school district companies.

Independent schools can anticipate increased expectations for a written student code of conduct if they do not have one. They should also anticipate that the regulations around reimbursement for courses taken outside of “regular” school will be such that the “voucher” system some are claiming this to be, will simply not be the case.

The FISA, as well as the other educational partner groups, will be involved in working for smooth implementation processes on the various pieces of legislation. It welcomes feedback from independent school communities to ensure timely resolution of any problems which might arise.





We wish
all independent
school students and staff
a happy and safe
Summer
vacation!

TOSKAN CASALE FOUNDATION

The Toskan Casale Foundation promotes a unique educational approach to philanthropy for Grade 9 and 10 students. Using lesson plans provided by the Foundation, teachers engage their students in learning about philanthropy in general, and a selected charity in particular, in groups of 4 and 5 students. Each group makes a presentation of their research and the school selects a "winning" group. The charity researched by the 'winning' group receives \$5,000 from the school, provided to the school by the Toskan Casale Foundation for this purpose.

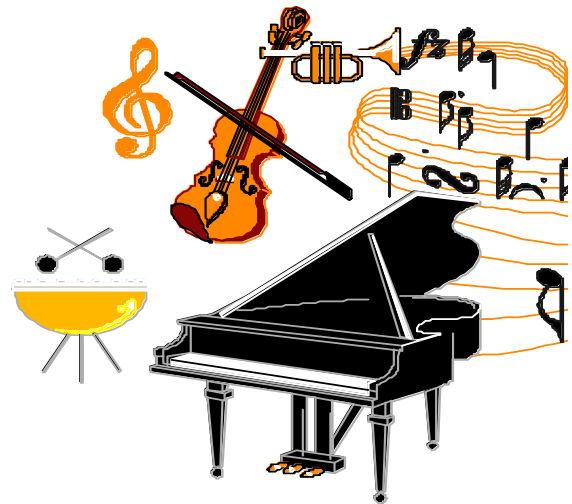
Religious schools are encouraged to apply, but the charities selected may not be ones that provide service only to their own faith group.

Three independent schools in BC currently participate (18 in Ontario, 2 in Quebec) and the Foundation is actively seeking increased participation rates, as expressed to Fred Herfst by Megan Tosker, Foundation representative, in a meeting he had with her on April 27, 2007

www.toskanfoundation.org

COASTAL SOUND INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL

The festival will take place at SFU Burnaby Mountain June 29 – July 4. It will feature two of the world's finest conductors, five of BC's best vocal coaches, and more than a dozen performances at venues in Burnaby, New Westminster, the Tri-Cities, Maple Ridge, Vancouver, and Surrey. The Festival Youth Chorus gives individual singers from BC a chance to participate with registered choirs from Canada, the USA, Australia, and Denmark. Joining conductors Bob Chilcott and Cristian Grases are five of BC's finest clinicians – Brian Tate, Sarona Mynhardt, Frances Roberts, Ramona Luengen, and Gail Suderman – who bring vocal skills encompassing classical, gospel, rock, pop, R&B, musical theatre,



Jazz, and world music. Also at the festival will be guest artists Pacific Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and Novel Voz. To register: www.coastalsoundfestival.com e-mail the Festival Manager at info@coastalsoundfestival.com

SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2007

October 18-20, 2007 The Lodge at Kananaskis, Kananaskis Village, Alberta. Please watch the Special Education Website for further details.

www.specialeducation.ab.ca

