



Canadian School Boards Association

Annual Report

July 2013, Vancouver., B.C.



MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT (2012-13)

SANDI URBAN HALL



On behalf of the Canadian School Boards Association and your Board of Directors, welcome to Vancouver for your CSBA Annual Meeting and Congress.

Thank you to BCSTA and this year's Congress Planning Committee! Your work over the past couple of years preparing for this week is evident and appreciated.

The opportunity for us to gather and share our successes, challenges and learnings over the past year is critical to the continued health of the public education system in Canada. As elected trustees, we find ourselves pulled between the needs of our students and the wants others. Those "wanting" from us include our communities and our provincial governments. While we have community and provincial obligations, our first priority has always been and must remain our students.

To do our best work, Boards of Education must not forget about spending time strengthening our own knowledge and governance practises. Your presence here is evidence that you understand that as

individual trustees, as boards of education and as provincial associations, we work learn and work together to ensure that all Canadian students feel they are safe; that they have similar opportunities to dream; to learn and to achieve regardless of where they live or their personal circumstances.

The CSBA has worked to support your work. Our focus on Student Health & Wellness, Twenty-first Century Learning, and Aboriginal Education supports the development and success of the whole child.

I wish the very best of luck to Michael McEvoy as he takes over the reigns for the association. I have no doubt that this team will continue to do excellent work.

I look forward to welcoming you and sharing our Annual Report at the General Meeting at CSBA. I am excited to tell you more about our year's work!

Your sincerely,

Sandi Urban Hall



Highlights from a busy year at CSBA



Congress 2012

Congress 2012 was expertly hosted by the Quebec English School Boards Association last July in beautiful Quebec City. Four hundred people attended workshops and heard inspiring keynote speakers such as, the Right Honourable Paul Martin, Buffy Ste-Marie, Margaret Trudeau and CBC's Mark Kelley. Several of the most popular plenary sessions are still available for viewing on YouTube.



School Boards Matter Study

The Canadian School Boards Association was proud to support this pan-Canadian research study in school board governance, in collaboration with Dr. Gerald Galway and Dr. Bruce Sheppard of the Faculty of Education at The Memorial University of Newfoundland. This research team has a prestigious history of producing excellent research

in the area of educational leadership and began this study to further our knowledge of best practices for trustees, commissioners, superintendents, and directors of education. The authors also identified and highlighted the successful attributes of effective school boards/districts. The

study took place during 2011-2012 and researchers went directly to almost 400 trustees and superintendents from all provinces and territories. The results were officially published in January 2013 and they provide excellent information on the attributes of a successful School Board, recommendations for Boards and additional suggestions for complimentary reading on similar research that also supports the findings of the group. Please see the CSBA website for the

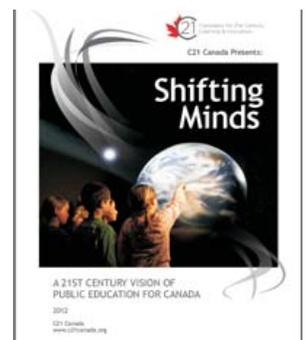
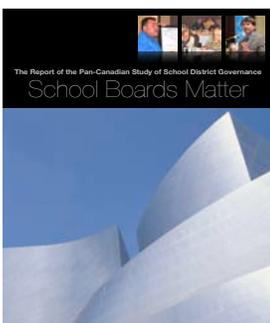
complete study, entitled "School Boards Matter", as well as a CSBA Executive Summary.

The Senate Committee on Human Rights

The Senate Committee on Human Rights has done considerable research over the past year on Cyber bullying. CSBA was invited to testify at one of the hearings in May of 2012. The CSBA was represented by Sandi Urban Hall, David Birnbaum and Wayne MacKay of Nova Scotia. The Senate's final report was published in November 2012 and provides recommendations to the Canadian government, as well as separate guidelines for parents and students. The report and the guides are both available on the CSBA website.

C21 Shifting Minds

One of the three working priorities of the CSBA is 21st Century Learning, ensuring that students across Canada are given access to the skills and technology that will be important to them as they enter the work force. We were proud to be among the founding members of C21 Canada and this past year, we participated with the group in the development of "Shifting Minds; A Framework for Teaching 21st Century Learning Skills" in Canadian schools. The report was officially endorsed by the CSBA, with the hope that it will stimulate discussion across the country about how educators can support youth in learning skills and technology. See the CSBA website or go to the C21 Canada website for the link or to download the report. Special thanks to former CSBA Vice-President Catherine Fife for her important work on this document and with the C21 group.



Aboriginal Education

As another key priority of the association, CSBA seeks to promote and support the infusion of the values, culture, perspectives and histories of Aboriginal peoples into the curricula and environment of Canadian schools, as well as to promote educational opportunities and student achievement for aboriginal students, as identified in Learn Canada 2020 (Council of Ministers of Education, Canada). CSBA was given an opportunity to respond to *Developing a First Nation Education Act: Discussion Guide* issued by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). Our written response placed strong emphasis on (a) the child at the centre of any initiative to improve education, and (b) the voice of First Nations in shaping the future of education for their children. Our deep appreciation goes to Susan Cook and Gail Anderson of OPSBA, Darren McKee and Janet Foord of SSBA, David Birnbaum of QESBA and Carolyn Duhamel of MSBA for their work on our response which can be found on the CSBA website.



New Partnership with CEA

The Board of Directors made a unanimous decision to partner with the Canadian Education Association in the publication of “*Facts on Education*”. This publication is circulated across the country in 5 editions, and highlights evidence-based research being done in the field of education on key issues that are of interest to the general public. We are delighted to be working with the CEA and look forward to sharing in other new initiatives with them, as well as other educational partners over the coming year.



Strategic Planning

We left the CSBA congress in July 2012 with a new Managing Director, a new President and the knowledge that the many changes the Association had made over the past years required us to “regroup”, redefine our priorities and most importantly, develop a road map that reflected each province’s expectations of our national body. After several workshops and much discussion, we reconfirmed our

mission to support, advocate for and promote publicly elected School Boards across the country, which we detailed in a 3-year action plan that began April 1, 2013. Our Key Priorities for advocacy include *Aboriginal Education*, *21st Century Learning* and the newest addition on our list of national issues; *Student Health and Wellness*. The 2013-2016 CSBA Strategic Plan, adopted at our March meeting is posted on the CSBA website and provided in the annual report.



Constitutional Changes

A committee was formed to examine the CSBA constitution, which required a few clarifications and small adjustments in language to make sure it was up-to-date, aligned with proper constitutional practice and reflected the reality of the CSBA. A notable change, to be ratified by the CSBA Board of Directors while in Vancouver, will see a shift from a weighted vote in favour of each member having equal voice and influence regarding financial decisions of the association.

Policy-making

This year, we have addressed several policy issues that arose during constitutional revision and strategic planning. This collaborative work is building the foundation for a solid framework which will eventually become the CSBA Policy and Procedure Manual. Topics addressed this year included choosing and managing key priorities such as budget decisions, congress activities, board meeting agendas, media relations, roles and responsibilities of the board members, President, Vice-President and Managing Director.



Leadership going forward

At its recent March meeting, the CSBA Board of Directors elected BCSTA outgoing President Michael McEvoy as CSBA President and Janet Foord (Saskatchewan) as Vice-President. Michael and Janet will begin their terms in July 2013, taking over from outgoing President Sandi Urban-Hall of Saskatchewan and outgoing Vice-President Jacquie Hansen of Alberta. We thank Sandi and Jacquie for their leadership over the past year and look forward with great anticipation to the year ahead.



CSBA 2013

BCSTA has been working diligently over the past year on the CSBA 2013 Congress. The conference theme, *Diversity Matters* will most certainly prove to be an interesting, informative CSBA Congress, with the added bonus of being in beautiful Vancouver. The program includes

extraordinary guest speakers such as the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, excellent professional development that you will find described on the congress website (www.csba2013.ca). If you are unable to attend, we will keep



you up to date on sessions or information that may be available to you post conference. For those of you who are able join us, enjoy the conference!

Events attended by a representative of the CSBA Executive

- SSBA AGM (Sandi Urban Hall, President)
- ASBA Fall and Spring Conference (Jacquie Hansen, Vice President)
- C2I Workshop (Jamie Stevens, Chair of C2I Committee and Sandi Urban Hall, President)
- MSBA AGM (Valerie McLeod, Managing Director)
- QESBA AGM and Spring Conference (Valerie McLeod, Managing Director)
- US NSBA Annual Conference (Jacquie Hansen, Vice President/Michael McEvoy, President-Elect)
- BCSTA (Michael McEvoy, President-Elect)
- CSBA 2013 (Board of Directors)
- OPSBA AGM (Jacquie Hansen, Vice President and Valerie McLeod, Managing Director)
- TRAM Workshop on Youth Mental Health Research (Valerie McLeod, Managing Director)
- NLSBA AGM (Sandi Urban Hall, President)
- NSSBA AGM (Sandi Urban Hall, President)

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie McLeod
CSBA Managing Director

Sandi Urban Hall
CSBA President, 2012-2013

Vancouver, British Columbia, June 2013