QUICK FACTS ABOUT the CSBA

‣ A non-profit organization that has the provinces and territories of Canada as its’ members.
‣ Seeks to provide support to Canadian school boards, advocate on issues of national concern and promote the value of public education.
‣ Headquartered in Montreal with one employee.
‣ Members are the provincial bodies only and are represented at board meetings by the President and the Executive Director of each provincial school board. There is no weighted vote…all provinces and territories have an equal voice.
‣ There are 8 official members but are also working with associates in PEI, NB, French boards in Quebec and the territories, most of whom have begun to attend our meetings. We are also exploring possibilities to have First Nations and Catholic School Boards join our group.
‣ Our total operational budget is approximately $200,000 per year and comes entirely from member fees which are based on student population. Expenses include all salaries, rent, travel and our activities. Several provinces also provide professional support.
‣ The CSBA Strategic Plan covers from APRIL 1, 2014 - MARCH 31, 2017, is reviewed regularly and revised annually.
‣ CSBA key priorities (Aboriginal Education, Student Health and 21st Century Skills) were chosen by members and are reviewed annually. All have terms of reference, action plans, a budget for their activities and the committee chairs provide reports at each meeting.
‣ The strategic plan also supports CSBA representation at all provincial AGMS in order to better understand local issues and to report to members on activities.

CSBA Board of Director Meetings:
‣ Board meetings take place three times per year (October February and May) rotating the location of the meeting across the country (east, centre, west) and include committee meeting on Key Priorities, member updates and sharing and occasionally a guest speaker that can shed light on the issues highlighted in our strategic plan.
‣ The Annual General Meeting takes place during the CSBA annual congress (July). Only provincial/territorial members vote. It is followed by a full annual presentation including activities and financials to all congress delegates and a “Cross Country Check-In” at which each province territory describes the challenges and accomplishments of the previous year. Meeting packages include briefs for all topics whether for discussion or decision. Each province/territory also provides an update. Once approved, meeting minutes are posted on the CSBA website. All meetings and activities are evaluated regularly.
‣ The CSBA Annual Congress is held in July of each year and provides quality, international professional development. The National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education is held in conjunction with the CSBA congress.
REPORT ON CSBA 2014
NIAGARA FALLS, hosted by OPSBA

More than 440 school trustees and senior administrators came from across the country to attend the 2014 Congress of the Canadian School Boards Association in Niagara Falls from July 3 to 5. Hosted by the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association, the theme of this year's Congress was Excellence: Reimagined.

The opening keynote speaker, Canadian astronaut and former International Space Station Commander Chris Hadfield, provided a highly engaging and inspiring talk on building ingenuity, determination and strategic preparation into everyday life.

"When you open your eyes and look at the world, this huge living thing next to you is very deliberately showing you it's secrets.”

CHRIS HADFIELD

Thirteen workshops were offered among which were a panel discussion on integrating supports for students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder; inVISIBILITY: Indigenous in the City Project; Building Safe and Accepting Schools and School Boards for LGBTQ and all students across Canada; and special Five-Minute Sessions featuring successful and innovative programming and curricular development from Member Boards.

Additional plenary sessions featured international education guru Pasi Sahlberg who spoke on Finnish education policy and what Canadians can and cannot learn from it.

"To prepare young people for a more competitive economy, our school systems must have less competition.”

PASI SALSBURG

OPSBA First Nations Director Peter Garrow hosted a panel on Aboriginal education issues featuring Canada’s former Prime Minister the Right Hon. Paul Martin and Canadian Olympian Waneek Horn-Miller. Will Richardson presented on education in a fast-changing and networked world. Dr. Stuart Shanker, gave an enlightening overview of the Canadian Self-Regulation Initiative and its importance in understanding child behaviour; Peter Levesque of the Knowledge Mobilization Institution took attendees on a journey into the emerging role of the teacher as facilitator to data and information; A Children and Youth Mental Health Panel featuring Dr. Ian Manion, Kathy Short of Mental Health ASSIST and Louise Sirisko of the Peel DSB covered key issues in school-based mental health.

“"If we do not step forward, then we step back, if we do not protect a right, then we deny it.”

PAUL MARTIN

CSBA thanks the attendees from Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Territories for their outstanding contributions at CSBA Congress 2014 and their commitment to connecting with colleagues across Canada in a common passion for the vital role of public education.

AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT CSBA 2015 IN SASKATOON FOR ANOTHER EXCELLENT TRUSTEE/COMMISSIONER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

CSBA CONGRESS 2014, Niagara Falls, Canada

Our thanks to Michael Barrett, Gail Anderson, Susan Wienberg and the entire OPSBA staff who together, hosted a quality event with inspiring speakers and excellent organization, welcoming trustees from across the county and providing them with the inspiration and motivation to return to their own boards, share with others and make a difference at their board.

COMMENTS FROM THE EVALUATIONS

- “The guest speakers were wonderful, and the reason I sign up for the Conference.”

- “Best set of speakers ever at a conference I have attended, in education and my other life.”

“"If you look at a child through the self-regulated lens, not only do you see a different child, but as you start to tailor your interactions, a new child will emerge.”

STUART SHANKER
National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education (June 30-July 1)

Dr. Ken Coates is Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation and Director, International Centre for Northern Governance and Development, which hosts the Masters of Northern Governance and Development and spearheads research on the provincial norths in Canada.

Nox Gyes, Edith Loring-Kuhanga is from the Wolf Clan of the Gitxsan Nation, BC. She has her Bachelor of Education Degree and a Masters in Education Leadership. For the past 30 years, she has worked extensively in the education and health fields.

Jim Miller, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Saskatchewan, is a specialist in the history of relations between Indigenous peoples and newcomers in Canada. Focusing on policy questions, he has published on issues such as residential schools, reconciliation, and treaties.

Jackson Lafferty was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 2005, appointed Minister of Justice and Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Lafferty worked with local Aboriginal governments, the territorial government, and with the corporate sector.

Hayley Wickenheiser, 5-time Olympic medalist, is regarded as one of the best female hockey players in the world with an uncompromised determination and dedication to her sport. Hayley is also an award winner, community leader, mentor, history-maker and an accomplished businesswoman.

The Right Honourable Paul Martin was Prime Minister of Canada from 2003 to 2006 and Minister of Finance from 1993 to 2002. During his tenure as Minister of Finance, he erased Canada’s deficit, subsequently recording five consecutive budget surpluses and set Canada’s debt-to-GDP ratio on a steady downward track.

Ken Krawetz was appointed as Saskatchewan’s Deputy Premier and Minister of Education in 2007 and Minister of Finance in 2010. Ken’s long history of serving his community began when he was first elected to the Canora School Division Board in 1985, where he served as chair for nine years. He also served on the Executive of SSTA and was its’ president in 1991-92.

Darcy Bear is in his seventh consecutive term as Chief of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation and is dedicated to the betterment of his community. He has been the impetus behind extensive economic development and the driving force for improved quality of life for Whitecap residents, and the people of Saskatchewan.

Bob Pringle was appointed as Saskatchewan’s Children’s Advocate on November 17, 2010. With a master's degree in social work from the University of Manitoba, he has been extensively involved with delivering services to the public over the past 38 years. He previously served as the CEO of the Saskatoon Food Bank, and as executive director of Cosmo Industries, the Saskatoon Housing Coalition, and Habitat for Humanity, Saskatoon.

Check the congress website [www.csba2015.ca](http://www.csba2015.ca) for more information on hotels, program, registration and submitting papers (proposal submission deadline: February 28, 2015).
OUR CURRENT ACTIVITIES - GENERAL

In October, the CSBA board did an auto-evaluation that in general, was very positive; the association demonstrating significant progress in all areas outlined in the 2013-2016 strategic plan. Things that still need attention include some communication initiatives, support in board governance and promoting public education. The association’s clearer focus, advocating for our three key priorities and supporting research in those areas has resulted in significant growth. As the demand to weigh in on issues of national importance has grown, the need to review our current path arose, requiring us to step back and review if we are best to continue in the current direction or scale back expectations to align with current resources. This will be discussed further in February where all provinces will participate and the finance committee will develop an action plan if alternate sources of revenue are required.

The faces around our board table are about to change as sadly, five Executive Directors who have been with us, some for more than 10 years, are about to retire. Going forward, we will provide an “orientation” package for new board members to ensure consistency at the table.

We are in the process of having all pertinent documentation translated with the goal of providing all CSBA information in both Canada’s official languages. There are many francophone boards across the country, as well as the FCSQ in Quebec, who represent 68 boards and 800,000 students. Plenary sessions at the CSBA congress will have simultaneous translation.

We have been asked to examine digital copyright laws that impact teachers and OPSBA staff and legal council are assisting to provide all members with a recommendations.

21ST CENTURY LEARNING SKILLS

DARREN MCKEE, Chair of the CSBA Twenty First Century Learning Skills Committee will be advocating at the next C21 Canada meeting, discussing with CMEC and other partners to determine a minimum acceptable standard for school bandwidth and a follow up plan to ensure that all Canadian children have reasonable access to the internet. We have seen similar research done in the United States. In addition, we will lobby to review the branding used by C21 Canada to improve accessibility to boards and students.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

The Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative team (MAEI) will present at the next CSBA meeting to present their 5 research-based programs to members. CSBA has officially become a partner of this national organization whose work is proving successful in seven provinces to date. Their MAEI “best practice” website is an important resource for all boards.

The CSBA Charter of Commitment; First Nation, Inuit and Métis Education has recently been listed by several organizations as “Best Practice” in Indigenous Education. Thanks to OPSBA for their support in building this document in response to a request from First Nations communities and the Canadian Association of Deans of Education.

Ian Hamilton, Executive Director of EQUITAS; the International Centre for Human Rights Education and his team were guests at our latest board meeting, though they are already present in 7 provinces. schools and are beginning to be requested in First Nations communities. They provide a PD program to train teachers to use the program in their classrooms and are directly linked to our priorities of Youth Mental Health as well as Aboriginal Education (equitas.org)

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The SHW Committee, with the guidance of Chair, TERESA REZANSOFF and the help of OSPBA, are developing a Charter of Commitment to Youth Mental Health that will outline the CSBA national position, including the need for literacy/curriculum to help youth better understand the subject. As well, we will lobby to ensure that the need for adequate resources to assist young people dealing with mental health difficulties is addressed.

The Graham Boeckh Foundation for Youth Mental Health, working in collaboration with the CIHR has asked for our counsel/participation to extend some very promising research done in Red Deer, Alberta to 5 more Canadian school boards. Results so far show a positive impact in schools and significant reduction in the instances of mental health issues, but more testing is necessary.

NEXT STEPS: CONTINUE TO MEET WITH OTHER POTENTIAL MEMBERS and TO PARTNER WITH OTHER NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. SUPPORT THE ADVOCACY EFFORTS IN KEY PRIORITIES and MEET WITH CMEC FOR ACTION ON THOSE PRIORITIES. GROW COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE. FURTHER EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES IN 2 POTENTIAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS THAT WILL PROVIDE IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR US TO MOVE FORWARD IN SUPPORTING BOARD WORK IN 21ST CENTURY LEARNING SKILLS and MANAGING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH.

Message from the President;

It is a real privilege to serve as CSBA President; to work with the dynamic group of people at the national table and alongside the trustees/commissioners who are dedicated to improving education across our country. In July, I hit the ground running with CMEC’s 21st Century Skills Symposium, meeting with education ministers and discussing potential collaborations on our Key Priorities. We continue to grow our national network, building this and other relationships that will benefit all boards. Valerie McLeod (ED) represented the association at AGMs in PEI and Saskatchewan, as did Floyd Martens (VP) in Alberta. The recent additions to our board of directors will bring a new excitement and energy which will be vital in our work to advocate on your behalf, share best practices and support your provincial board associations. We look forward to meeting and hearing from you at your local events and will also have a presence at the international level at the NSBA in March. Our very best wishes to you and your families in 2015! Thank you for all your work.
NEWFOUNDLAND
The reality that 1/3 of provincial revenues are tied to oil royalties will mean major provincial budget realignments and expenditure reductions. This will impact school boards and involve serious belt tightening for the entire education system. NSSBA is raising awareness for CSBA priorities in the 2 board’s planning processes. The association transition budget contains some support for professional development, which may entail consideration of a potential renewal of Atlantic Region PD Conference for trustees, as well as participation at the CSBA national PD forum in July.

NOVA SCOTIA
As of the new year, Nancy Pynch-Worthylake will take over as the new Executive Director of NSSBA, following the retirement of Ken Meech. The major focus for 2015 will be on the Minister’s Action Plan in response to the Education Panel report tabled at the end of October. We will facilitate discussions in the new year to review the alignment between the public school system and the post secondary sector relative to student requirements and the future job market. We will also continue our efforts to enhance the partnership with the Minister of Education to work jointly for student success.

NEW BRUNSWICK
New Brunswick has begun the process of developing a 10-year Education Plan, which is seen by boards as very positive direction as it allows educators to focus on students rather than constant changes at the departmental level. Further development concerning projects on the issue of Mental Health and Wellness is also a priority for the coming months.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
PEI’s School Board are continuing their work related to the 2013 merger of the former existing English boards into one province-wide board. A main focus is increased student achievement. The PEI School Trustees’ Association will be re-established and both Boards (French Language and English Language) will appoint two trustees each to form a four-person Executive which will meet early in the new year.

QUEBEC
Québec Boards are responding to government plans to revamp the education system, which will begin with the reduction in the number of school boards. The 9 English board chairs boards find this unacceptable and their position will be presented to the Minister December 18. Next, the government intends to review governance models and the redistribution of powers between the Ministry, the school boards, and the local schools.

ONTARIO
The combination of a new provincial vision for education and an influx of newly elected trustees as a result of Municipal elections underscore OPSBA’s need to focus on governance and professional development as school boards and the province work together on renewed goals. Student well-being has been given a prominent place in the government’s provincial vision for education and is equally a focus for OPSBA as we deepen our advocacy for mental health, poverty reduction, and a new health and physical education curriculum. OPSBA is continuing to engage in advocacy for a stronger curriculum on First Nation, Métis and Inuit education particularly with regard to mandatory components for all students related to the history and legacy of residential schools, the impact of the Indian Act and the role of treaties in contemporary Canadian society.

MANITOBA
Manitoba is working on Executive Director recruitment, as Carolyn Duhamel retires in spring. There is work being done to develop a new membership fee structure. In addition, a strategy is being developed for provincial partnerships to address the achievement gap for Manitoba students.

SASKATCHEWAN
Saskatchewan is preparing to promote the work of school boards by celebrating 100 years of supporting student success during the SSBA’s centennial year in 2015. Work is also being done to advocate for K-12 education funding adhering to principles identified by the SSBA membership. The SSBA continues to encourage development of resources and supports to help improve outcomes for Aboriginal students.

ALBERTA
Alberta has just concluded their executive search and is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Scott McCormack as Executive Director. Regulations have been drafted and released to support Alberta’s new Education Act - school boards have until January 31, 2015 to provide feedback. As the new year approaches, and in light of continued shifts in the political landscape, further opportunities exist for school boards, education stakeholders and the provincial government to work collaboratively in support of students.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
BC is working on the implementation of our new co-governance agreement with government, with immediate emphasis on the pending decision regarding governance of the provincial employers’ association. We are slowly rebuilding relationships following the province-wide June to September teacher’s strike. Having just completed trustee elections for what is now a 4 year term, both BCSTA and Boards are focusing on orientations as well as the framework for how our work (both advocacy and oversight) will now progress. Mike Roberts is the newly appointed BCSTA CEO.

AND ONWARD TO 2015...!
CSBA WISHES YOU
PEACE AND
INSPIRATION IN 2015

CSBA welcomes it’s
newest members;

Mike Roberts
CEO, BCSTA

Connie Bailey
President, SSBA

Nancy Pynch Worthylake
Executive Director, NSSBA

Scott McCormack
Executive Director, ASBA

Mike Roberts
CEO, BCSTA
WE’VE MOVED!

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS FOR THE CSBA OFFICES AS OF JANUARY 1, 2015

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