



Federation of  
Independent School  
Associations in  
British Columbia

Welcome to New  
FISA BC  
Member Schools

- Artemis Place Secondary School, Victoria, BC
- iLearn BC School, Surrey, BC
- G.A.D. Elementary School, Surrey, BC
- Squamish Montessori Elementary School, Squamish, BC

## MLA Visits Independent Schools

MLA Marc Dalton, member for Maple Ridge-Mission, has received support from the Premier and Minister of Education to provide a report to Cabinet on issues that are important to independent schools. MLA Dalton has been accompanied by the local MLAs in the school visits, and the school authorities have had the opportunity to discuss issues on which the government could assist independent schools in policy or regulatory requirements. Mr. Dalton has been joined by Jane

Thorntwaite, North Vancouver-Seymour, Linda Reid, Richmond East, Colin Hansen, Vancouver-Quilchena, Dave Hayer, Surrey-Tynehead, and the assistant to Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, Vancouver-Fairview.

Issues raised have included access to closed public school buildings and property, adult education funding, diversity of independent schools, unique staffing requirements, access to land in the ALR for playing fields,

funding process, access to the provincial pension plan, and access to the maintenance grant that is currently only available to public school districts.

MLA Dalton will be visiting schools on Vancouver Island, Kelowna, Prince George and the Fraser Valley in the New Year. Our thanks to the independent schools that have hosted these visits and our thanks to the MLAs for visiting independent schools.

## Board Retreat

The FISA BC Board of Directors will be meeting at Harrison Hot Springs Resort on January 9 – 11 for two days of discussion on the mandate of FISA BC in the next decade. The Minister of Education, Hon. George Abbott, will provide the opening address, followed by sessions on the strategic plan for the Federation, school evaluation strategies, provincial policy initiatives and related board business.

The Board will also be hosting a dinner for Ed Vanderboom in appreciation for the work that he has done for independent schools in his capacity as principal, FISA Board member, deputy inspector and inspector of independent schools.

## AGM Report and 2011-2012 FISA BC Board Members

At the Annual General Meeting of FISA BC held on December 7, 2011, the membership approved the audited financial statement for 2010-2011, the budget for 2011-2012, and the actions and decisions of the Board of Directors to date. The meeting also received the report of FISA President, Mr. Doug Lauson, printed on pages 4 and 5 of this FISA BC Newsletter.

The Board Executive includes President: Mr. Doug Lauson, CIS; V.P: Mr. Henry Contant, SCSBC; Sec: Rabbi Don Pacht, AMG; Treas: Mr. Ray Sutton, ACSI BC; Ex-Officio Member: Dr. Elizabeth Moore, ISABC.

Board Members include ACSI BC Mr. David Neufeld, MEI; Mr. David Shinness, Highroad Academy. AMG: Mrs. Janet Dhanani, Az Zahraa Islamic Academy; Mr. Harry

Moes, Credo Christian High; Mr. Lloyd Robinson, Seventh-day Adventist Schools; Ms. Cynthia Garton, James Cameron School; John Wilson, Kenneth Gordon School. CIS: Mr. Joe Colistro, Catholic Schools Victoria; Mr. Richard Kohlen, Businessman. ISABC: Mr. Don Hincks, Meadowridge School; Ms. Maureen Steltman, Fraser Academy. SCSBC: Mr. De Jager, Lawyer; Mr. Ed Noot, Unity Christian High School.

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## BC Education Plan



The Minister of Education has launched the BC Education Plan ([www.bcedplan.ca](http://www.bcedplan.ca)) as a roadmap to making BC's education program reflect 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning. The plan maintains a strong commitment to basics of learning in reading, writing and numeracy while expanding the focus of real-world skills in self reliance, critical thinking, inquiry, creativity, problem solving, innovation, teamwork and

collaboration, cross-cultural understanding and technology literacy. Student assessment and reporting remain key components of the Education Plan, as does the importance of the teacher and effective teaching strategies.

pendent schools, traditional schools, academies or specialty programs.

FISA BC is very pleased to see greater flexibility in designing educational programs for students, as well as parental choice in choosing public or inde-



Independent school associations are encouraged to provide feedback on student information system requirements that would best meet their needs.

## Student Information Systems

Pearson Group, the company that purchased AAL, the makers of BCeSIS, has confirmed that it will continue to provide support for the student information system until July, 2013.

In the interim, the government will continue its research into an alternative system that will meet the

needs of British Columbia into the next decade. A decision is expected by January, 2013. Schools are encouraged to remain with their present system until the government provides clear direction on whether or not the province will move to a common information system or not.

ations are encouraged to provide feedback on student information system requirements that would best meet their needs. Written comments can be sent to FISA BC which will then be forwarded to Andrew Macauley, Director, Common Business Initiatives, Ministry of Education.

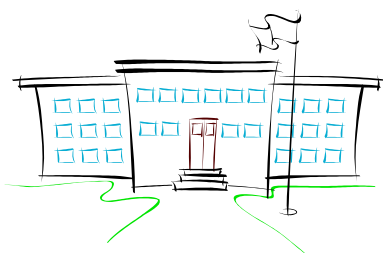
Independent school associ-

## New FISA Schools

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome the following new schools to FISA BC:

- Artemis Place Secondary located in Victoria, BC
- iLearn BC School located in Surrey, BC
- G.A.D. Elementary School located in Surrey, BC
- Squamish Montessori Elementary School located in Squamish, BC

FISA BC currently supports independent schools enrolling over 92% of the total independent school enrolment in BC.



## FISA Website

Thank-you to all who have visited the new FISA BC website during the past month. There were 1800 visits to the website with 71% visiting for the first time. Schools will be provided with the member login password once classes resume in January. We apologize for the delay in getting Word formats of the FISA BC policies on the website so that schools can modify them as required. These will be available in the member login section in January.

## The Teachers Act Replaces BCCT with BCTC

Bill 12, now known as the *Teachers Act*, received royal assent on November 14<sup>th</sup>, bringing into law new regulations for teacher training, certification and regulation.

The new act repeals the Teaching Profession Act and dissolves the BC College of Teachers, replacing it with a 15-member BC Teachers' Council (BCTC) that represents all members of the education community, including teachers who were formerly certified through the Office of the Inspector of Independent Schools.

The 15-member BCTC will consist of three teachers from the BCTF and appointed by the Minister, five teachers elected by teachers from each of five regions in the province, and seven members nominated from the 7 Provincial Education Groups, one of which is FISA BC.

The Teachers' Council will include one non-voting government representative appointed by the Minister and all meetings will be conducted in public.

The most significant change affects regulation of discipline cases for public and independent schools. A nine-member Disciplinary and Professional Conduct Board will preside over conduct, competency and fitness hearings for all schools. It will exercise power to revoke, suspend, grant and impose conditions on teaching certificates. A commissioner appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council (cabinet), will oversee the disciplinary process.

Independent school-teacher certification, discipline and registries, currently under the authority of the Inspector of Independent Schools, will be amalgamated into one single ad-

ministrative structure for all BC teachers.

### TAKE NOTE:

It is important for teachers who hold non-practicing BCCT teacher certificates or Interim Independent School Teaching Certificates that expire between June 30, 2011 and December 31, 2011, to check the BCCT website to ensure that their teacher certification remains valid. It is also important that the College be informed of the correct mailing address for teachers certified through the Inspector's office, as ALL teachers will be entitled to vote for a teacher representing their region.



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## Education Minister Approves New Funding Formula

A December 9, 2011 press release by the Ministry of Education confirms that the formula for allocating funds to school districts will change for next year.

The new formula will provide more funding for "vulnerable students, small school districts, and remote and rural schools."

The Honorable George Abbott, speaking at the BCSTA Convention in Vancouver on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, indicated that a supplement for vulnerable students in the amount of \$5 M would be added in 2012-13 and increased to \$11 M in 2013-14. As well, districts will receive additional compensation in places where transportation costs

are higher. Small districts will receive a supplemental \$1.5 M and districts with lower enrolments will be provided with a minimum of 98.5% of last year's allocation, despite significant declines in student enrolment.

Independent schools are directly impacted by the funding provided to public school districts, meaning that independent schools in rural areas could likely see a small increase in their grant next year while independent schools in districts with declining enrolments could see a slight reduction in their funding next year. More information is available at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/r12funding/>.

## Seasons Greetings

The Board of Directors and Staff of FISA BC would like to extend their warmest greetings and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas season as independent schools recess for the Christmas vacation. May all our families, Staff and School Boards experience the love and joy of spending time together, enjoying great food, fun and fellowship, and reflecting on the meaning that this season brings to them.

Season's Greetings and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



## FISA BC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

December 7, 2011

*A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. -Margaret Mead*

### **STATISTICS:**

The membership of FISABC is composed of the five member associations:

Association of Christian Schools International	28 schools	10,024 students	15.4%
Associate Member Group	112 schools	13,153 students	20.2%
Catholic Independent Schools	77 schools	20,808 students	31.9%
Independent Schools Association	24 schools	11,354 students	17.4%
Society of Christian Schools	40 schools	9,882 students	15.2%

In 2010-11, the FISABC represented 281 schools that enroll 65,221 students, an increase of 528 students. Total independent schools in BC are 359, enrolling 72,016 students (+1372 or 1.9% increase). The total number of public school students continues to decline as predicted, estimated at 553,828 (-0.75%) from 558,000 FTE's in 2009-10. This is the 14th straight year of public school enrolment decline. Approximately 12.6% of all the school-going children in the province now attend independent schools, but this increase is largely due to a number of factors including declining public school enrolments and increasing Distributed Learning enrolments in non brick-and-mortar schools. Distributed learning has more than doubled between 2006 and 2009/10 to over 71,000 students, despite the decline in overall student enrolment. The independent school DL growth was 1282 students in 2010/11 for a total of 7,433 DL students. Adult students have increased to 25,465 students, of which only 199 were in independent schools.

Public school enrolment has declined by over 76,000 students in the past ten years, a decrease of 12%. In the same period, independent school enrolments grew by over 12,000 students, an increase of 17%.

The government spent \$4.663 billion on education last year but the operational funding (50% and 35%) to independent schools accounts for only \$258 million that the Ministry of Education spent on education. The independent schools increase in special education rose from \$37.1million to \$38 million, mostly due to an increase in special needs students attending independent schools.

- Sources: Ministry of Education & FISABC

### **NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER GROUP (AMG) SCHOOLS:**

During the 2010-11 school year, FISABC welcomed Phoenix Academy (PALS Autism School), Vedanta Academy and Westside Montessori as new members in the Associate Member Group of the FISABC.

### **THE LAST YEAR IN REVIEW:**

This past year saw the leadership of the FISABC undergo a transition period with the hiring of Dr. Peter Froese as the Assistant Executive Director to replace Fred Herfst as Executive Director in July 2012. The year of transition, designed by the Board of Directors, has provided a seamless continuity to the leadership of the organization. I welcome Dr. Froese to his new appointment and look forward eagerly to working with him for many years to come.

The FISABC has undertaken a major overhaul of its website ([www.fisabc@telus.net](http://www.fisabc@telus.net)) with the aim of providing its members and the public with an easy-to-navigate website that effectively and efficiently expresses the Federation's mandate and mission. The new website is linked to Google maps, showing the locations of all independent schools. In addition, the FISABC has changed the logo that has served its purpose since the founding of the FISA in 1966. The new logo reflects the name change to Federation of Independent School Associations in British Columbia (FISABC).

FISA BC amended their by-laws to correctly reflect the acronyms of the Independent Schools Association in BC (ISABC) and the Society of Christian Schools in BC (SCSBC).

In April of this year, the FISABC initiated a Special Education Survey of independent schools. The survey revealed interesting results about special education in independent schools, dispelling the myth that independent schools are elite, serving only the highest academic achieving students in British Columbia. The FISA also spent considerable time and energy developing a Child Abuse prevention Policy to be used by all independent schools. This policy builds on the policies of government on child abuse and neglect and expands on them in a way that allows all independent schools to provide environments that protect children. (continued next page)

Federation of Independent  
School Associations in  
British Columbia

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Secure Alternatives*



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"My thanks must go to the members of the Ministry of Education and the members of the FISA for the open collaboration that ultimately benefits the students in independent schools, who are the prime reason why we exist."

## President's Report continued from Page 4

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION:**

Several changes in personnel in the Ministry of Education occurred during the latter half of the school year. In the late Spring, Peter Owen, long-time Assistant Deputy Minister left government to retirement. Claire Avison was appointed Executive Director of Governance and Independent Schools shortly thereafter. Ms. Avison had spent several years in Governance and Legislation in the Ministry. In mid-September, the Inspector of Independent Schools Ed Vanderboom left government and was replaced by Theo VandeWeg who was previously the Assistant Deputy Inspector. In the Fall Claire Avison was appointed acting Assistant Deputy Minister and Nick Poeschek (from Governance and Legislation) was appointed acting Assistant Deputy Inspector. The position of Inspector was posted on November 4, 2011 and it is anticipated that a new Inspector will be announced shortly.

The Federation continues to maintain very good relationships with the various members and departments of the Ministry of Education. FISABC also continues to be consulted by the various stakeholder groups involved in provincial education, such as the BC College of Teachers, Education Advisory Council, Office of the Inspector of Independent Schools, BC School Trustees Association, Association of BC Deans of Education, etc.

The Federation, through its Executive Officers and Board of Directors, continues to have very constructive meetings with key Ministry officials, including the Minister of Education, Hon. George Abbott, Deputy Minister James Gorman, acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Claire Avison, Provincial Superintendents Sherri Mohoruk and Rick Davis and the OIIS Inspector, Theo VandeWeg.

My thanks must go to the members of the Ministry of Education and the members of the FISA for the open collaboration that ultimately benefits the students in independent schools, who are the prime reason why we exist. In particular, I thank Peter Owen and Ed Vanderboom who always exemplified professionalism and diplomacy. My special thanks go to Fred Herfst, who retired in June after serving FISABC for 25 years. Without Mr. Herfst leadership and expertise, the FISABC would not be the exemplary organization that it is.

**BC COLLEGE OF TEACHERS (BCCT):**

The BC Teachers Act (2011) will result in the cessation of the BC College of Teachers and the functions it carried out will be assumed by a certification and discipline authority within the Ministry of Education, managed by a commissioner appointed by the Cabinet. Despite the difficulties the BC College of Teachers experienced, previous Registrars have worked diligently to protect the public interest and integrity of the teaching profession. My thanks to Kit Krieger and his staff for the diligent and conscientious work that they did in fulfilling the mandate of the College and also to Patricia Haslop (Vancouver Hebrew Academy) who represented the FISABC on the BCCT Council until its dissolution on November 14, 2011.

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS:**

The FISA distributed the following grants in 2010-11: French Language Program (\$397,976), Artists in Education Program (\$15,256), Dry Grad (\$11,760) and \$28,196 for Foundation Skills Training and Marking. In addition, the FISA Dogwood District Authority Scholarship Committee awarded scholarships to 183 Grade 12 graduates, totaling \$183,000.

**THANK YOU:**

I extend my heartfelt thanks to four persons who have served the FISABC for many years in various capacities: Hugh Burke (ISABC) has served for 15 years on the FISABC Board of Directors, Elizabeth Wilby has served as an AMG director for 11 years, Harry Moes has served for 18 years as chair of the Dogwood/District Authority Awards Committee, and of course, Fred Herfst. Dr. Peter Froese and his executive assistant Magda Hogewoning have assumed the leadership of the FISABC office and I am grateful to them for their diligence and conscientiousness in tending so efficiently and effectively to Federation business. I must also thank the members of the associations who served as Board members over the past year. Without the cohesiveness and collaboration of the Board members, it would be a far more difficult task for the Federation to present its policies and perspectives to external agencies. The strongest bond that we have as a Federation is the common belief that parents are first educators of their children and have the right to choose the kind of education that is most appropriate for them.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Lauson

President

**Board of Directors****President**

Mr. Doug Lauson  
(CIS)

**Vice-President**

Mr. Henry Contant  
(SCSBC)

**Secretary**

Rabbi Don Pacht  
(AMG)

**Treasurer**

Mr. Ray Sutton  
(ACSIBC)

**Ex-Officio**

Dr. Elizabeth Moore (ISABC)

**Board Members:**

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Mr. David Neufeld  
Mr. David Shinness

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Ms. Janet Dhanani  
Ms. Cynthia Garton  
Mr. Harry Moes  
Mr. Lloyd Robinson  
Mr. John Wilson

## CIS

Mr. Joe Colistro  
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