

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
INFORMATION NOTE FOR MINISTER**

DATE: June 23, 2015
CLIFF: 182658

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister, for **Information** at the request of Education Sector Organizational Excellence Branch.

SUBJECT: Federation of Independent School Associations in British Columbia
Board Meeting ~ June 24, 2015

BACKGROUND:

The Federation of Independent School Associations in British Columbia (FISA) has been an effective voice for independent schools in the Province since 1966, nearly 50 years. The FISA mandate is to ensure that policy changes in the education sector are equitable to independent schools, funding remains stable at 50 percent and 35 percent for Group 1 and 2 schools, and to lobby government for changes which will further support improvement in the independent school system.

There are five member associations within FISA:

1. The **Association of Christian Schools International in British Columbia** (ACSIBC) represents 25 schools.
2. The **Associate Member Group** (AMG) encompasses over 100 individual schools such as Montessori, Waldorf, special needs schools, and religious schools (among them evangelical Protestant, Jewish, Sikh, and Seventh-day Adventist schools).
3. The **Catholic Independent Schools in British Columbia** (CISBC) represents 77 schools and is organized into the Archdiocese of Vancouver and the Dioceses of Kamloops, Nelson, Prince George, and Victoria.
4. The **Independent Schools Association in British Columbia** (ISABC), which is also a member of the Canadian Association of Independent Schools, represents 22 schools.
5. The **Society of Christian Schools in British Columbia** (SCSBC), which is also a member of Christian Schools International, encompasses 40 schools.

In total, FISA represents 292 independent schools in the Province, translating into representation of over 93 percent of the total independent school enrolment in the Province.

There are four groups of independent schools. **Groups 1 and 2** schools must employ British Columbia certified teachers and follow the British Columbia curriculum, and are funded. **Group 4** schools must meet the same requirements as Groups 1 and 2, with the addition of a bonding requirement; however, these schools are not funded since the majority of the students are international. **Group 3** schools only meet basic regulatory requirements and are not funded. The method for calculating independent school funding is detailed in the Independent School Regulation and is based on the average public school student funding in the independent schools local public school district.

See Attachment 1 for full list of Board Members.

DISCUSSION:

- The June 24, 2015 meeting is an opportunity for the Minister of Education to speak to the FISA Board directly regarding recent and current events in BC education as well relay to the Board upcoming priorities for Government, the Ministry of Education and the sector.
- An annotated agenda for the Board meeting has been attached for reference.
- Although unlikely to be discussed given the nature of the meeting, FISA's current priority items include working with Government to ensure:

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2. Independent Schools looking for land and building have greater access to surplus public school property.
3. A framework to better support Aboriginal on reserve students choosing to enrol in independent schools is developed.
4. Independent school students have greater access to skills and trades opportunities within the independent school sector.
5. Expansion of the Special Education School (SES) designation beyond the 6 currently designated schools.

Attachments: 1. List of FISA BC Board Members
2. Annotated Agenda for June 24, 2015 Board Meeting

Contact Information Education Sector Organizational Excellence Branch 250 387-	IR	Approved DB
	ADM initial	Dave Byng Deputy Minister
		Date signed: June 25, 2015

Attachment 1
FISABC Board Members

Association	Name	Position	City
ACSIBC	David Neufeld	Principal, Mennonite Educational Institute	Abbotsford
ACSIBC	Stuart Morris	Principal, Highroad Academy	Chilliwack
ACSIBC	Phil Hills	Executive Director, ACSI BC	Surrey
AMG	Janet Dhanani	Former Principal, Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy	Richmond
AMG	Harry Moes	Principal, Credo Christian High School	Langley
AMG	Don Pacht	Principal, Vancouver Hebrew Academy	Vancouver
AMG	Lloyd Robinson	Superintendent, SDA Schools	Abbotsford
AMG	Corazon Pabo	Vice-Principal, Khalsa School	Surrey
AMG	Karen Gledhill	Principal, Traditional Learning Academy (DL)	Surrey
CIS	Bev Pulyk	Supt, Catholic Independent Schools Victoria	Victoria
CIS	Shawn Chisholm	Principal, St Ann's Academy	Kamloops
CIS	Doug Lauson	Supt, Catholic Independent Schools Vancouver	Vancouver
ISABC	Don Hincks	CFO, Meadowridge School	Maple Ridge
ISABC	Dr. Elizabeth Moore	Executive Director, ISABC	North Vancouver
ISABC	Maureen Steltman	Principal, Fraser Academy	Vancouver
SCSBC	Henry Contant	Executive Director, SCSBC	Langley
SCSBC	Charles De Jager	Lawyer, De Jager Volkenant and Co	Surrey
SCSBC	Ed Noot	Associate Director, SCSBC	Langley

Chair: Doug Lauson

Opening remarks – Doug Lauson/Peter Froese

INTRODUCTIONS		
Minister of Education	Honourable Peter Fassbender	5 Mins
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education	Dave Byng	
FISA Board	Round Table Introductions	5 Mins

UPDATE ON CURRENT EVENTS

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2. Bill 11 – Education Statutes Amendment Act	Minister and Deputy Minister	10 mins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reiterate that Bill 11 provides the Minister discretion to mandate professional development for certificate holders but does not specify what courses or requirements there will be. - Confirm to the FISA Board that the <i>Regulation</i> outlining the requirements for professional development will be co-developed with the field. - FISA will be involved in the consultation process and have opportunities for input for general certificate holders as well as independent school teaching certificate holders. <p>Note: Give FISA an Opportunity to speak/comment on Bill 11</p>		
3. International Education Tour	Minister and Deputy Minister	10 mins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide summary of MOU's reached during the Minister's Asia Tour: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewal of MOUs with the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China - Signing of a MOU with Heilongjiang Provincial Department of Education Japan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signing of a MOU with Heilongjiang Provincial Department of Education - MOU's will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable information exchange. - Facilitate connections between the two jurisdictions' education sectors. - Set priority areas for collaboration including visiting teachers and student mobility. - Enables\ further discussion in additional areas such as vocational training, curriculum development and credit recognition. - Speak to FISA about the importance of these relationships to the Job's Plan and Skills Blueprint <p>Note: Give FISA an Opportunity to speak/comment on International Education</p>		

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

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2. Education Roadmap	Minister and Deputy Minister	20 mins
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Speak to<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Priorities for the rest of the current mandate- Curriculum redesign- Skills and trades- Innovation strategy and the innovation partnership. <p>Note: Give FISA an Opportunity to speak/comment on what they feel the role of independent schools is and the current inspection structure.</p>		
3. Innovation Tour/Strategy	Minister and Deputy Minister	15 mins
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Speak to the purpose of the innovation tour- Recap of Provincial Innovation Tour meetings held this year- Reaffirm commitment to hold an Innovation Tour meeting for independent schools in the fall.		

RECOGNITION

1. Recognise Doug Lauson - retirement	Minister	2 mins
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Letter drafted by staff and enroute to MO for signature. Will be available to present Doug at the meeting.		



August 26, 2015

Ref: 182752

Doug Lauson, Superintendent
Catholic Independent Schools of British Columbia
Vancouver Archdiocese
150 Robson St
Vancouver BC V6B 2A7
Email: DLauson@cisva.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Lauson:

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, I would like to thank you for your generous dedication and outstanding contributions to the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver, the Catholic Independent Schools of British Columbia, and the Federation of Independent Schools Association of British Columbia. I congratulate you on your remarkable career in education.

You have shown tremendous passion for improving the quality of education at local, provincial and international levels. In finding solutions to the many challenges a dynamic, rapidly changing education system must face, you have displayed courage, creativity and innovation.

Besides your dedicated service to the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver, you have also applied your lifelong passion for learning and teaching by serving as President of the Federation of Independent Schools Association of British Columbia and advocating for independent schools in British Columbia.

In preparing for retirement, you should feel incredibly satisfied to know that you have inspired and supported countless educators, students and their families. Retirement is a great adventure and, as you prepare for this exciting next stage of your life, you leave behind a legacy of excellence that will be remembered long into the future.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful retirement filled with many years of happiness and good health. I look forward to continuing to work with you and building on the gains you helped to achieve during your career.

Sincerely,

Peter Fassbender
Minister

APPROVALS			
Contact Info		Comments	Date
Drafted by:	Brian Jonker		June 23, 2015
In Consultation with:			
Executive Director 250-387-3711	<i>Brian Jonker</i>	approved	June 23, 2015
ADM	<i>Ian Rongve</i>	Approved	June 23, 2015
MCO	Ally Lee	Finalized	June 23, 2015
DM			
MO			

** MCO - Remove the Approval Block before saving as a PDF**