

# BCSTA BYLAWS

The mandate of the (Aboriginal Education) Committee is understood to encompass issues affecting the education of all students who declare their Aboriginal descent.

The duties of the Aboriginal Education Committee shall include:

- to represent the interests of Boards of Education in Aboriginal education matters in cooperation and liaison with Aboriginal groups;
- to heighten knowledge, awareness and understanding of Aboriginal values, cultures and perspectives in the education system in order to enhance learning;
- to disseminate information to relevant constituent groups, in order to foster an atmosphere that will promote dialogue at the local level between boards of education and Aboriginal communities;
- to identify and address issues related to provincial policy and implementation processes that have an impact on Aboriginal education; and
- to develop recommendations on Aboriginal education matters, including consideration of funding implications, for action by the Education Committee, Provincial Council and/or Board of Directors, as appropriate.

# PROJECTS

## Current Projects

- 2017 National Gathering for Trustees on Aboriginal Education in July at Whistler
- Early Learning
- Framework for Enhancing Communication with Education Committee for BCSTA Events
- Aboriginal Parent and Community Engagement
- Orientation of New Staff to Aboriginal Education
- Trustee and District Staff Professional Learning

## Past Committee Journey

- 2012 Aboriginal-themed BCSTA Annual General Meeting
- 2013 Aboriginal Education Committee Survey
- 2014 National Aboriginal Trustees Gathering
- Territory Acknowledgement
- Truth & Reconciliation: Calls to Action
- Relationship Development: First Nations Education Steering Committee in BC (FNESC)
- Relationship Development: Ministry of Education, Aboriginal Education Department

# AbEd

Aboriginal Education Committee



For more information about the BCSTA  
Aboriginal Education Committee, visit  
[bcsta.org/content/Cttee-AbEd](http://bcsta.org/content/Cttee-AbEd)

# FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENT

## Aboriginal Education

BCSTA respects the heritage, histories, and cultures of Aboriginal\* peoples.

BCSTA encourages and promotes active participation of Aboriginal peoples in all aspects of the public education system of British Columbia.

## Aboriginal Education and General Curriculum

BCSTA supports the inclusion of Aboriginal perspectives within the broader curriculum.

## First Nations' Languages

BCSTA supports initiatives and programs that will ensure the survival and revitalization of First Nations' languages in British Columbia.

\* "Aboriginal" includes First Nations, status and non status; Métis; and Inuit. In the BC school system, students are identified as of Aboriginal ancestry based on self-identification.

# RESOLUTIONS (partial list)

## 2017

### Senior Leadership Position

That BCSTA reiterate its request that the Ministry of Education create a permanent, senior leadership position focused on Aboriginal student success.

### Increased Target Funding

That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance increase K-12 Aboriginal Education funding to support student success and achievement.

### Continuous Access to In-Service

That BCSTA recommend that the Ministry of Education work to improve outcomes for Aboriginal students by providing funding to school districts to ensure that teachers have continuous access to in-service related to supporting Aboriginal students.

### Resource Development

That BCSTA recommend that the Ministry of Education and the Association of BC Deans of Education ("ABCDE") work with Aboriginal communities to create and implement resources for teachers in training that develop indigenous cultural

competency and that support professional learning programs related to K-12 Aboriginal success and achievement.

### First Peoples Course in Grad Requirements

That BCSTA request Ministry of Education ensure that the revised BC Grade 10 – 12 Curriculum includes a required First Peoples course as a graduation requirement.

### Student Transportation

That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance provide adequate funding for student transportation responsive to each school district's unique needs.

### Increased Community Link and Vulnerable Students Funding

That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance review and revise the formula for Community Link and Vulnerable Student Supplement funding with the goal of increasing and enhancing supports for vulnerable students in all school districts.

### First Nations Language Development

That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance provide funding to school districts to jointly develop language curriculum with First Nations to support the local language in their regions and further to provide the funding to implement provincially approved curriculum.

## 2016

### Reinstate Superintendent of Aboriginal Education

That the BCSTA urge the Ministry of Education to reinstate/ appoint a senior leadership position, such as a Superintendent of Aboriginal Achievement, so strategically lead the province and support boards of education to eliminate the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal student success.

## 2015

### Aboriginal Support Spaces in Public Schools

That the BCSTA advocate that the Ministry of Education include and fund a separate space function, in addition to the current Special Education allocation for Aboriginal support within the area allowances for schools, and amend the Area Standards accordingly

### Evergreen/School Leaving Certificate

That the BCSTA write a letter to the Minister of Education in support of the First Nations Education Steering Committee's recommendation around Evergreen Certificates:

"It is recommended that the Student Credential Order be amended to ensure only students designated special needs and on an IEP be eligible for an Evergreen Certificate. Mechanisms to monitor and support School District compliance with the new Student Credential Order should be developed as soon as possible."

### Territory Acknowledgment

That the BCSTA encourage all member Boards of Education to acknowledge Aboriginal territories when public board meetings are held.

## 2013

### Residential School Education (Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendations #4 and #5 – Education)

That BCSTA support recommendations #4 and #5 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's report "Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Interim Report, 2012" and therefore urge:

- the Ministry of Education to undertake a review of the curriculum materials currently in use in public schools to assess what, if anything, they teach about residential schools; and
- the Ministry of Education and the appropriate Aboriginal educational partners to work in concert with the Commission to develop age-appropriate educational materials about residential schools for use in public schools.

### Residential School Education (Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendation #6 - Education)

That BCSTA support recommendation #6 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's report "Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Interim Report, 2012" and therefore urge the BC Provincial Government to work with the Commission to develop public-education campaigns to inform the general public about the history and impact of residential schools in British Columbia.

### Residential School Education (Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendation #7 – Language & Traditional Knowledge)

That BCSTA support recommendation #7 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's report "Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Interim Report, 2012" and therefore urge the Government of Canada and the churches to establish an ongoing cultural revival fund designed to fund projects that promote the traditional spiritual, cultural, and linguistic heritages of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada.

### Residential School Education (Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendation #8 – Parenting Skills)

That BCSTA support recommendation #8 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's report "Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Interim Report, 2012" and therefore urge the BC Provincial Government to work with partner groups to develop culturally appropriate early childhood and parent programs to assist young parents and families affected by the impact of residential schools and historic policies of cultural oppression in the development of parental understanding and skills.

### BCSTA Professional Development Events

That an Aboriginal education-themed learning opportunity be included at future BCSTA professional development events including AGM and Trustee Academies.

### National Aboriginal Trustees Gathering 2014

That BCSTA apply to host the National Aboriginal Trustees Gathering in 2014.