

JANUARY 2023

REPORT to CSBA

Report to the Canadian School Boards Association

Provincial Updates

Premier David Eby was [sworn in](#) on November 18, taking over from John Horgan who resigned due to health concerns. As part of his [cabinet shuffle](#), Rachna Singh was installed as the new minister of education and child care, replacing Jennifer Whiteside, now the minister of mental health and addictions.

Minister Singh's [mandate letter](#) highlights the need for new and expanded schools, improved services for children with learning differences, supporting boards of education in their work, taking steps toward reconciliation and more. As part of this work, starting in 2023-24, an Indigenous graduation requirement will be introduced. The province has distributed a [video](#) and [brochure](#) explaining the requirements.

BCSTA staff are currently in the initial stages of planning an advocacy day this fall that will bring members of the Legislative Assembly and boards of education together to highlight the crucial role of school trustees have in their communities and how BCSTA supports their work.

Codes of Conduct

The Ministry of Education and Child Care and BCSTA are undertaking a joint initiative supporting boards in updating their codes of conduct policies and procedures. A national scan was undertaken to see what other provinces and local governments have in place to inform this work. The goal is to ensure all 60 school districts have updated policies with a minimum set of requirements.

Learning Guides

BCSTA continues to update our members-only [Learning Guide](#). The current modules available cover the subjects of communication, development and leadership, governance, Indigenous education and legal accountability. Three additional modules will be released this spring, and they will cover the subjects of vision, culture and strategic planning, student success and human resources and labour relations.

The guides are exclusive to members and are stored on the BCSTA HUB. CSBA members may reach out to CEO [Suzanne Hoffman](#) for access.

Events

BCSTA held a New Trustee Orientation and Academy in December 1-3. The event was a major success, and was headlined by keynote speaker [Chief Cadmus Delorme](#) of the Cowessess First Nation who explored how it took unmarked graves at former residential schools for many Canadians to admit they need to learn more about the truth between Indigenous people and Canada. The event allowed both new and returned trustees an opportunity to network and grow. Resources from the event are hosted on our members' [site](#).

BCSTA will be providing additional [virtual orientations](#) as part of the work started at Academy over the coming months. The goal is to continue to provide boards with orientation support for both new and established trustees.

The association also looks forward to welcoming provincial councillors back to our first regular in-person [Provincial Council](#) meeting this February, at which time a permanent vice-president for the association will be elected. Members will have an opportunity present urgent motions prior to our April AGM.

February will also see BCSTA hosting the annual meeting of [board chairs](#) and co-hosting the Partner Liaison Meeting with the Ministry of Education and Child Care.



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Bargaining Update

The BC Public School Employers' Association and the BC Teachers' Federation have ratified the collective agreement for approximately 49,000 teachers in B.C.'s 60 public school districts. Read more [here](#). An update on public sector bargaining, issued January 9, can be accessed [here](#).

Scholarships

Graduating public school students who have displayed exemplary citizenship and are residents of B.C. are welcome to apply for BCSTA's [Student Citizenship Scholarship](#). For 2023 we are offering three scholarships for \$750 each. The deadline is February 28.



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