



In the early 1950's, the Bishops of British Columbia, in anticipation of public funding for Catholic Schools, established a society in each Diocese to own and operate their schools. Subsequently, they were well positioned when, thirty years later, public funding finally arrived.

On Vancouver Island, the Catholic Independent Schools, Diocese of Victoria is the body that was established for this purpose. The Diocese owns six elementary schools and one high school which it operates through a Board of Directors and local school councils.

It was, in fact, the receipt of public funding that raised the profile of the Society. The requirement for greater accountability in both financial and academic matters demanded a greater degree of co-ordination among the schools.

The management and direction of the system reached a new plateau with the appointment of a full-time Superintendent of Schools in 1988.

In 1989, the Society's by-laws were amended to provide for the creation of a Catholic Independent Schools Commission. The Board of Directors delegated to the Commission the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Society's affairs. Local school councils retained responsibility for various aspects of school operation at the local level.

The Board of Directors, however, retained jurisdiction over those matters that related to the Catholicity of the schools and any real property transactions.

In July 1995 the Board approved the Mission and Mandate for the Catholic Independent Schools, Diocese of Victoria. This document set out the philosophy and mission of the C.I.S.D.V. and clarified the roles of the members at the different levels of governance.

In December 2000 a study was completed by Storey and Associates called "Speaking of Schools". This was followed by a second report titled "Called to Lead", in April 2001. In the study "Speaking of Schools" an area of focus was to "determine whether the present Board of Directors/Commission structure was the most effective means of determining and communicating school system priorities". The Board of Directors was asked to reassess the role and existence of the Commission. Upon careful review it was decided at the May 25th, 2001 meeting to dissolve the Catholic Independent Schools Commission as of June 30th, 2001.



Island Catholic Schools

FOUNDATIONS AND BASIC COMMITEMENTS

HISTORY OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
ON VANCOUVER ISLAND 100

Reference: CIS Motion #91/21 C.I.S.D.V. Constitution and By-laws (amended November 1995) Mission and Mandate for C.I.S.D.V. (July 1995)	Approved: September 1991
Cross-reference:	Date(s) Revised September 2001, Nov/09, 2011