



**CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS DIOCESE OF VICTORIA  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
November 24, 2020  
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**



This annual report provides a brief summary of the 2019/20 school year, a look into 2020/21 as well as information on the Board of Directors, FISA, CISCBC, Ministry of Education, financial information and enrolment trends.

## History of Catholic Education in BC

Did you know (direct quotes from *Catholic Education in BC*)

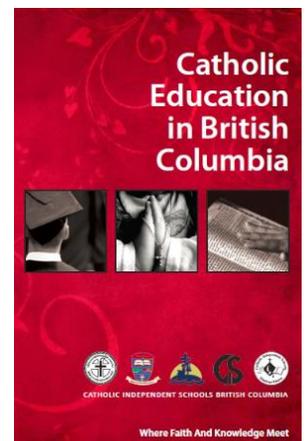
[https://www.cisdv.bc.ca/media/user/docs/catholic\\_education\\_in\\_bc\\_booklet\\_FINAL\\_PRINTER\\_VERSION%281%29.pdf](https://www.cisdv.bc.ca/media/user/docs/catholic_education_in_bc_booklet_FINAL_PRINTER_VERSION%281%29.pdf) :



- Catholic schools in British Columbia were started in the middle 1800's by the Sisters of St. Ann with the opening of St. Ann's Academy in Victoria and Kamloops.
- In 1872, a year after British Columbia entered Confederation, the first Common School Act was passed. Although Catholic schools had been present for several decades, the Act failed to recognize their

existence. Over the next decade, Bishop Paul Durieu, an Oblate, wrote to the provincial government requesting recognition of Catholic schools.

- In the early 1950's, the first mass movement of the laity started with the formation of the *British Columbia Catholic Education Association (BCCEA)*, now known as the *Catholic Independent School Committee of BC (CISCBC)*.
- In 1954, the Bishops of BC presented the newly elected provincial government with a brief for support, but again without success. On the national front, the BCCEA was lobbying the Federal Health Minister for medical health services. Its argument was based on the fact that the provincial government was distributing federal money only to public schools. Later that year, Catholic schools received, for the first time, health services.
- In 1957, yet another lobby was made to the provincial government; this time for the removal of taxation on school properties outside Vancouver (Vancouver schools had already won zero taxation) and the right to ride public school buses. As a result, the provincial government allowed municipalities the right to exempt school properties from taxes, but only if the school was operated by a non-profit society. From this change in government position, the Diocesan Societies were born. Each Diocese formed a non-profit society that operated in an identical manner. These societies continue today in the five dioceses.
- In 1966, independent school representatives formally founded the *Federation of Independent Schools Association (FISA)*.
- In the late seventies, after many years of lobbying, the government passed the Independent Schools Support Act (1977). The Act provided Independent Schools with financial aid that amounted to a maximum of 30% of the per capita grant to public schools.
- The Independent Schools Act (1989) increased provincial funding operating grants to a maximum of 50% of the per capita grant to public schools.



- After over a century of struggle, Catholic schools of British Columbia were recognized educationally and financially by the provincial government.
- In September 2005, the Ministry of Education increased funding of special needs students enrolled in independent schools to the same levels as public schools.
- Today, Catholic schools play a vital role in the educational landscape of the province and are now widely recognized by governments, public provincial education groups and other stakeholders in British Columbia education.

### **Catholic Education in the Diocese of Victoria**

It all began when four Sisters of St. Ann came to Victoria in 1858 at the request of Bishop Modeste Demers. Over the last 162 years, the Sisters have been instrumental in the life of Catholic schools on the Island. Even today, they support our schools financially and through ongoing prayer.

The commitment of clergy, religious sisters, lay educators and parents are to be recognized for ensuring Catholic schools were and are available for children.

Currently within the diocese there are:

- **four elementary schools and one high school** serving 1378 school-aged students from Kindergarten through Grade Twelve
- **three Early Learning/Childcare Programs** operating at St. Joseph's School (Victoria), Queen of Angels (Duncan) and St. John Paul 11 School (Port Alberni). The total number of those children are not counted in the 1378 number noted above.
- **four Before School and/or After School Care Programs** that exist in each of the elementary schools.

**Our mission:** *Island Catholic Schools are committed to Catholic education founded on Gospel-centred values and the teachings and tradition of the Catholic Church. We will continue to be models of love and hope as we build a new future for our Diocesan community and the wider global community.*



### **CISDV Board of Directors**

**Vision of Board** - Inspired by Jesus Christ and the mission of the Church, the Island Catholic School Board will be a visible presence in the Diocese of Victoria supporting, building and expanding Catholic Education.

**Mission of ICS Board** - The Island Catholic School Board, in faith, unity and collaboration with local school and parish communities will support, oversee, protect and foster the Catholic school ethos and culture.

**The ICS Board believes ...**

- Students can change the world as missionary disciples in service to the Church and the world.
- All children should have access to Catholic Education so that they may grow in their faith and the love of Jesus Christ.
- Working in a Catholic school is an "awesome" ministry within the Church so it is important to recruit, select and hire employees who are authentic witnesses providing excellence in education.
- In academic excellence by providing the necessary opportunities and resources so that all students can reach their full potential.
- In fiscal responsibility as stewards of Catholic schools as part of the broader Church community.

The **2017-2020 CISDV Strategic Plan** is due for renewal and updating. With the pandemic impacting the ability to gather and focus on something of such importance, it was decided to use this fall to complete any remaining items and to reflect on where our focus should be for the next number of years. A strategic planning session will take later in spring or early next fall.

**Current Goals** include:

- 1) *To be Communities of Evangelization, Fostering a Culture that Nurtures Faith and Catholic Identity*
- 2) *To Ensure Sustainability of our Catholic Schools*
- 3) *To Provide Excellence in Education*

**Governance and Ministry**

Check out the Board pages on the **CISDV website**:

- Board info - <http://www.cisdv.bc.ca/island-catholic-schools-board.php>
- Board members - <http://www.cisdv.bc.ca/ics-board-members.php>
- Minutes - <http://www.cisdv.bc.ca/ics-board-minutes.php>

**Looking Back - Looking Forward**

Some Accomplishments in 2019/20 were:

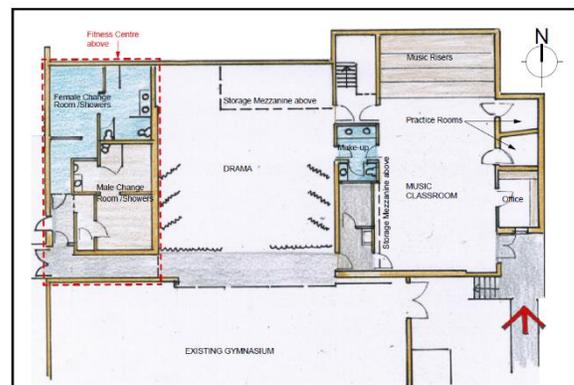
- Completion of the \$13 million renewal of St. Andrew's Regional High School which started in the Spring of 2018.



- Surviving the changing landscape in education as we dealt with COVID, online learning and the June restart with new health & safety protocols.
- Hosting a 2-day Catholic Educators Conference in November (similar to the Vancouver CEC).
- Following up with items in the Early Learning/Childcare Centres (ELC) review, including ongoing exploration of establishing a separate society for our Early Learning/Childcare Programs.
- Began to work on a total revision of the Support Staff Handbook (including a salary review) and the Local School Council *Call to Serve* document.
- Beginning the implementation for the new CISBC Teacher Framework on Professional Growth.
- Monitor the impact of any new funding model in the public system (2020-21) and the impact (if any) on independent school funding

Besides ongoing work with day-to-day operations, admin evaluations, policy development, adjusting to the most current health & safety regulations related to COVID, the priorities for the 2020/21 School Year are:

- Full implementation for the new CISBC Teacher Framework on Professional Growth.
- Negotiate a new Collective Agreement with the Catholic School Teachers Association; the past agreement expired June 2020 and COVID delayed negotiations last year.
- Begin the development of a new CISDV Strategic Plan.
- Complete the Support Staff Handbook revision and the Local School Council *Call to Serve* document.
- Complete exploration of establishing a separate society for our Early Learning/Childcare Programs.
- Continue work with DCG Consulting who is advising on a \$5 to 5.5 million fundraising campaign for St. Andrew's High School for its final phase (Performing Arts Wing and Field Upgrade).
- Complete next phase of the St. Andrew's High School building project (Performing Arts Wing).
- Continue to support teachers with the implementation of the Canadian Religion Resource - *Growing in Faith and Growing in Christ*. This includes updating the format of the Religion Curriculum to match the Ministry format (Grades K-9).



Performance Arts Wing Addition - Floor Plan



connections.

- Ongoing work with faith formation and evangelization, social justice and parish

Last year and this year we continue having difficulty securing the following staff:

- A sufficient numbers of teachers on call
- Substitute Educational Assistants
- Substitute Early Childhood Educators.

Please help spread the word. More information on job postings can be found on <https://www.cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities.php>.



### **CISCBC (Catholic Independent Schools Committee of BC)**

The Superintendents and a representative from each diocese in BC meet two times each year to work together on areas of common interest and concern. In addition, the five Bishops attend the first meeting of the year, which is held annually in early November.

This committee has also been delayed creating new **Strategic Priorities of the CISCBC**. This will be an area of focus over the next 12 months. Current goals include:

- To have all members of our school communities be agents of evangelization.
- To infuse the new BC Curriculum with a Catholic Worldview.
- To call forth, support and retain dynamic Catholic school staff.
- To spread the Good News of Catholic schools across the province.

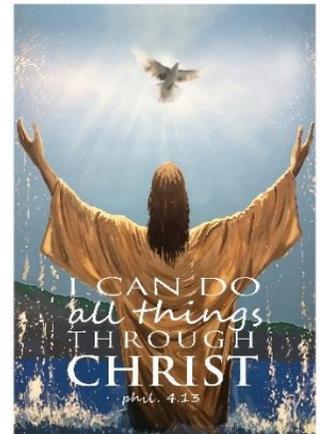
A brainstorm for some new areas to consider are: mental health, ongoing faith formation and evangelization, aging facilities, First Nations Education and Reconciliation, and marketing.

A major focus this year relates to the 3<sup>rd</sup> goal; implementation of the new CISBC Teacher Professional Growth/Evaluation Tool.

Fr. William Hann remains our diocesan rep on the CISCBC. Colleen Easson, from the Prince George Diocese remains the BC rep at the national level. I remain the chair of the CISCBC.

Annual Catholic Independent Schools of BC (CISBC) events that did or were to have taken place this past year were:

- Catholic Schools' Week with a theme of *I Can Do All Things Through Christ*
- Sadly, the annual provincial Catholic School Leadership Days for BC principals and superintendents was cancelled due to the pandemic. PJ Lewis, a Catholic registered clinical counsellor, was going to facilitate these days with a focus on the area of mental health. He was rebooked for this spring and we are hoping that we will not have to cancel yet again.



Similar events will be taking place this year. In addition, the BC Catholic Superintendents will be hosting the CISBC Summer Leadership Course for a week in early July. This course has been developed for potential or newly appointed administrators in the Catholic Independent Schools of BC. The course provides an opportunity for Catholic leaders to assess and reflect upon their professional practise and engage in further personal and professional growth.

**Federation of Independent Schools Association of BC (known as FISA BC)** <https://fisabc.ca/>



*With a united voice, FISA advocates for parental choice, recognition and funding; supports Independent School Associations in their pursuit of excellence; strengthens educational practice; and contributes to the public good (FISA website).*

Similar to other organizations, their strategic planning has been delayed due to the pandemic. The FISA Board Strategic Plan current **goals** are to:

- Develop a Provincial Strategy that will demonstrate how independent schools contribute to the common good.
- Develop a proactive succession strategy for FISA to address personnel transitions over the next five years.
- Develop a position on independent school funding that is most beneficial to school authorities.
- Conduct surveys and research topics that address educational practice and policy issues important to independent schools.
- Develop policy and best practice guidelines for independent schools that are applicable to all Associations within FISA.
- Strengthen FISA's relationship with provincial education partners (PEGs), the Ministry of Education and elected MLAs.

The Catholic Independent Schools (CIS) group is one of the five associations within FISA. Three CIS members are elected as representatives to the FISA Board and they ensure that the "Catholic" voice is heard at the FISA table. I currently sit on the Executive of FISA as treasurer.

The FISA Board meets monthly to address topics common to all Independent Schools (IS) in the province. Shawn Chisholm is the **Executive Director**. FISA continues to work collaboratively with the Ministry of Education in numerous areas: curriculum, policy and legislative matters, and dealing with COVID. Various members of FISA communicate directly with the Minister of Education (the Honorable Rob Fleming), Deputy Minister (Scott MacDonald), and the Assistant Deputy Minister assigned to independent schools (Keith Godin). FISA's relationship with government remains positive, constructive and collaborative.

FISA also communicates bi-weekly with the Ministry of Education Independent School staff, with the Executive Director (Marnie Mayhew), Inspector of Independent Schools (Theo Vandeweg), and Deputy Inspector (Grant Sheppard).

Items that took much of FISA's time last year were the following.

Last year, the Ministry of Education completed an **Education Funding Review** in the province. The mandate of this review did not specifically include independent school (IS) funding, however, the government finally asked FISA to respond to the impact of these



22 recommendations on IS as well as to have us consider a new independent school funding model. As such, a FISA formed a Funding Committee comprised of 10 people to address the Funding Review Report. The purposes of the committee were: review the 22 recommendations for public schools and determine the potential impact they would have on IS; meet with government and provide IS feedback; examine other funding models for IS; and, work to ensure that IS continue to get equitable funding. The work of this committee was extensive and a report was submitted to the Ministry.

The Ministry decided to delay most funding changes at this time, but sadly, one of the first funding changes had to do with Online Learning Schools, including independent online learning schools (IOL). **IOL funding was reduced** from 63% of the public per OL student to 50%. 40% of all online learning students in BC are registered with an IOL school. The announcement, made in late June, was very poor timing for IOL schools who had already developed their budgets for the upcoming year. FISA challenged the timing of the decision and filed a complaint with the Provincial Ombudsperson in early August. The Provincial Ombudsperson has requested additional information, which FISA has submitted.

The government established policy requirements to prevent money laundering in educational settings; all schools are expected to finalize a **cash payments policy** by January 1, 2021. FISA engaged a lawyer to develop such a policy template that schools could use and/or adapt to their local situation. The template is located on the FISA website <https://fisabc.ca/member-information/>. CISDV approved a new cash payments policy at the last Board meeting.

FISA followed up on a concern that PSGs from independent schools are not allowed to receive **PST rebates**. Sadly, no movement was made on this.

Last year, FISA was in communication with the Ministry with regard to allowing **MSP Consolidated Billing for International Students**; this request was granted as an option. Consolidated billing greatly reduced the work required with regard to the MSP fee payments for international students enrolled in our schools.

### **BC Ministry of Education**

The Provincial Budgets (last year and this year) have appeared to be a **maintenance budgets for education**. Last year, 88,690 students accounted for 13.7% of students attending independent schools (IS) in BC; and based on how IS are funded, we received 6.7% of the educational budget. If all IS students attended public schools in BC, it would cost the government approximately \$450 million more (assuming same public school rate of funding). As per usual, the final per student grant is published in December.



The government continues to fund **mental health** initiatives. Last year, FISA received \$260,000 which was used to:

- create a new website, <https://www.wellbeingbc.ca> , which showcases strategies schools can use to support mental health and wellbeing in students and staff.
- provide some money to each association to use for this purpose.
- provide provincial professional development outreach.
- support the writing of the MDI (Middle Years Development Instrument) with grade 4 students.

FISA will receive an additional \$447,000 this year to be used in 2021-22; FISA has yet to determine how it will be allocated. Good news was that FISA received the equivalent per student (100%) funding compared with the public system Mental Health Grant.

Both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education continue to update information and requirements on how schools are to continue operate under COVID. Additional funds for **health & safety** expenses (from both the federal and provincial allocation) were and will be issued to independent schools similar to normal grants (50% of what the public schools receive). FISA is lobbying for 100% funding allocation based on this being a health issue and not an education issue.

**School Financial Information**

Schools have completed their revised 2020/21 budgets based on current enrollment and last year's financial reports. The **per student grant** as determined by the Ministry are as follows. The Health & Safety grant for 2020/21 is not included in the estimate for this year. That grant is considered a special purpose grant (approximately \$185/student).



**Per Student Grant (\$) History and Published Ministry Estimate**

Year	SD #61 Victoria	SD #79 Duncan	SD #70 Port Alberni
2010/11	3612	3979	4177
2011/12	3645	4048	4163
2012/13	3640	4175	4324
2013/14	3729	4307	4517
2014/15	3726	4390	4638
2015/16	3827	4227	4445
2016/17	3879	4185	4368
2017/18	3922	4238	4416
2018/19	4449	4837	4952
2019/20	4581	4954	5051
<b>2020/21 estimate</b>	<b>4535</b>	<b>4888</b>	<b>5026</b>

**Special Education grants changed from:**

- Level 1 \$42,400 to \$43,000
- Level 2 \$20,200 to \$20,400
- Level 3 \$10,250 to 10,300.



**Enrollment**

The chart below reflects **enrollment numbers** for our diocese for the past 10 years. Enrolments (head count) are as of September 30.

Year	St. Patrick's	John Paul II	St. Joseph's (C)	St. Joseph's (V)	St. Andrew's Regional High School	Queen of Angels	St. Andrew's Elementary	Total
2020-21	301	83	-	363	340	291	-	1378
2019-20	307	106	-	380	381	384	-	1558
2018-19	308	115	-	365	363	397	-	1548
2017-18	318	131	97	355	351	392	-	1644
2016-17	337	142	110	349	335	393	-	1666
2015/16	367	116	94	333	335	416	-	1661
2014/15	353	124	140	317	348	428	-	1710
2013/14	346	92	140	281	350	389	-	1598
2012/13	328	91	118	200	365	384	141	1627
2011/12	322	80	119	202	363	415	155	1656

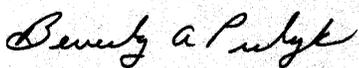
This year we have 152 students designated with special needs; this is 11.0% of our overall student population. It is worth noting that ICS has received **special ed funding** as follows:

- 2013-14: \$1,034,250
- 2014-15: \$1,134,750
- 2015-16: \$1,150,750
- 2016-17: \$1,424,450
- 2017-18: \$1,331,445
- 2018-19: \$1,549,800
- 2019-20: \$1,323,100

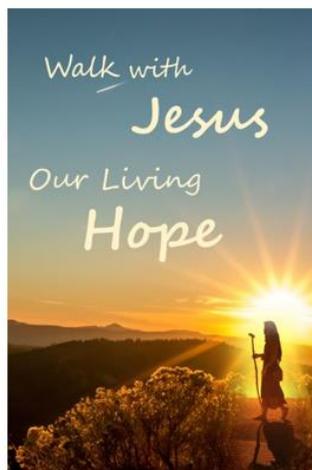
The BC government continues to promote international education. Our international enrollment remained steady last year and has dropped this year due to the pandemic and travel restrictions.

Your continued support and prayers for our Catholic schools is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Pulyk  
Superintendent



Jesus, Our Living Hope,  
help us to walk with you.  
You are our map; our compass,  
our guide, our rock,  
our path to everlasting joy.  
In you we place our hope and trust.  
Help us to walk your way of truth and goodness,  
of mercy and love, of forgiveness and joy.  
Challenges will come our way,  
but by your side we walk with confidence  
knowing your loving kindness  
will carry us through.  
Help us to be witnesses of your living hope  
for all those we meet this day.  
Amen