



Institute for
Public Education / British Columbia

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

public education is a public interest

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Public Education / British Columbia



Our Mission

The Institute for Public Education BC, an independent nonprofit organization, provides high quality information and leadership to build a strong public education system for British Columbia's children, families, and communities.

Quality

- A quality Public Education system strives to insure every child develops their abilities to the fullest. No child is excluded.
- A strong Public Education system recognizes that children are at the centre of the enterprise. It is their individual and collective needs that should guide policy and practice.
- Public Schools are concerned with a broad-based education that includes aesthetic, cultural, emotional, social, physical and vocational development, as well as intellectual and academic engagement.
- The most fundamental and significant relationship in Public Education is between the student and their caregivers, and the teacher. Relationships with peers are also fundamental to their healthy growth and development.
- All professional educators—teachers, administrators, and support personnel—should be free to speak out for the best interests of the children they work with.
- A decolonizing lens opens the doors to truth and change and embeds the TRC Calls to Action in schools and professional practice.
- Assessing the progress and value of our Public Schools cannot be reduced to a standardized test. School and system evaluation needs to be carried out with diverse tools and focus on supporting the lives of the children in those schools.
- For public education to be optimally effective, schools need to be adequately and equitably funded.

Democracy

- Public Schools must strengthen and deepen democracy and encourage active citizenship.
- Public Schools are open to all people regardless of special or diverse needs, economic status, background, religion, ethnicity, learning style or location in the province.
- The public school is a secular and tolerant place that celebrates the diversity in our communities while underscoring and emphasizing our common humanity. Students in public schools come from families with every kind of religious background – and no religious background.
- Public Schools are democratic public institutions governed by publicly elected officials (School Trustees and the Ministers of Education) who are accountable to their communities.
- Those closest to the education process—teachers, administrators, school staff, students and their parents and community members—must have a meaningful and respected voice in education policy and practice.

Accessibility

- We believe that, as a cornerstone of public education, public schools should be welcoming and inclusive. Students, parents, educators, and community residents should feel that their cultures and contributions are respected and valued, and their presence and participation in the life of the school is welcomed.
- Public schools must also be:
 - safe and secure places for students and all personnel who work in them.
 - community institutions as well as centers of learning. An understanding of the public school as a focus of community life is vital.
- While public schools must strive to meet the needs of individual students, they also have an important role to play in creating a community of learners and fostering the social development and civic engagement of the children and youth in their care.

Who We Are

David Chudnovsky; Larry Kuehn; Dan Laitsch; Moira Mackenzie; John Malcolmson; Kevin Milsip; Christine Younghusband

Our Vision, Our Activity

Renewing

The IPE/BC Board is governed through a committee structure intended to empower board member activities. The Committee Structure was meant to clearly define responsibilities of individual Board members and to provide opportunities for others to participate in supporting IPE/BC's work and activities. This Committee Structure is illustrated below.

The following Board members assumed roles as Committee Chairs. Kevin Milsip supported Committee chairs across their portfolios.

Dan Laitsch

Board Chair

Chair, Administration

Christine Younghusband

Vice Chair

Larry Kuehn (and John Malcolmson)

Chair, Research & Programs

Moira Mackenzie

Chair, Communications

David Chudnovsky

Fundraising and Partnerships

Our Vision, Communication and Research

IPE/BC continues to create a community of interest in quality, accessible, inclusive public education through its communications. We aim to publish our occasional newsletter on a quarterly basis, sending it to subscribers and posting it on the website. Through the newsletter, we keep supporters up-to-date on the work of the institute and share information on public education issues.

IPE uses social media, in particular Facebook and Twitter (@PublicEdBC) to engage with others, highlight new information from IPE/BC and share items of interest to public education supporters. We're also investigating Mastodon and Tribel as additional social media platforms to connect on public education issues.

We have been steadily adding resources to the IPE/BC Commons, a site for sharing research, articles, and other publications on important issues in public education. We're always happy to receive suggestions and links for material to add to the site.

Andrée Gacoin and Patti Bacchus, IPE/BC Fellows, contributed to our Perspectives Blog this year. We welcome contributors who would like to share their perspectives on public education matters. You can read past blogs posts at <https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/category/perspectives/> and contact IEP at info@publiceducationbc.org

In 2022 we published the following additions to our Occasional Paper series:

- Inflation, Bargaining and the Threat to Labour Peace in the Schools (John Malcolmson)
- When the BC government refused education for Japanese Canadian children, Hideko Hyodo and the community created an alternative. (Larry Kuehn)
- COLA-lite: Ready's Inflation Adjustment for Sea-to-Sky Bus Drivers (John Malcolmson)
- Beyond Resistance to Privatization: Rebuilding and Reclaiming Public Education (Andrée Gacoin)
- Choice-the Formula for Inequality (Barbará Silva) We're pleased to note that this paper was picked up by Our Schools Our Selves and published as *It doesn't add up What's missing from the CHOICE= FREEDOM equation?*

Our communications will include a strong focus on the new project, Our Hopes and Dreams for Public Education in BC, to be launched soon. We'll be actively promoting the project, creating many opportunities to engage with it and encouraging participation throughout the province.

Conduct and disseminate research that fosters a strong public education system.

Out of Our Pockets: a significant research project aimed at gathering data from teachers and others on the degree to which they use their own personal money to subsidize our public schools. We are at a stage where our software developers have completed a basic web module and are in the midst of formal testing. Once formal testing is completed, IPE/BC will be in a position, hopefully later this year, to proceed with implementing the full research capability of OOP.

The Charter for Public Education: IPE/BC is working to "de-colonise" the Charter through the removal of settler-colonial quotations. In addition, IPE/BC is exploring efforts aimed at enhancing the ability of the

Charter to be used in areas like evaluation work or reflection on teacher practice.

Hopes and Dreams for Public Education: What are your hopes and dreams for public education in BC? What do you think BC public schools need? What would an equitable, inclusive, and diverse public education system be like? This project was inspired by a process that began in 2003 with the Charter for Public Education. The Charter was created from passionate discussions about public education with thousands of people from 42 communities around the province and 620 submissions. Twenty years later, much has changed—life is more complex and stressful for many, and public schools are under pressure. IPE is interested in understanding what your “Hopes and Dreams” are for public education in BC.

Protect public education from privatization.

IPE/BC remains committed to doing research on and educating British Columbians about the impacts of privatization on public education and schools.

Annual Update of Subsidies to Private Schools: was posted to our website and shared on social media.

Out of Our Pockets: designed in part to confront and make transparent the provincial reliance educators subsidizing core services within public education.

Our Vision: Partnerships, Finances, and Administration

Partnerships

This year saw a significant increase in IPE’s engagement with other groups and organizations.

- IPE continues to develop and deepen partnerships with a range of organizations and individuals.
- We appreciate the support we have received for our "Out Of Our Pockets" project from Simon Fraser University. With respect to that project we are following up on our previous connections with the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association.
- IPE is working with the BCTF on the "Our Hopes and Dreams for Public Education" project. We will have a presence at both the BCTF AGM and their Public Education Conference seeking participation and submissions to "Hopes and Dreams".
- We have recently begun a relationship with the Surrey Teachers' Association and expect to participate in their May Professional Development Conference with special emphasis on "Hopes and Dreams" and "OOOPS".
- Our annual analysis of the provincial subsidy to Private Schools was again a collaboration with the BC Office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.
- Once again this year IPE presented at the Columbia Institute High Ground Conference. This is an important and symbiotic partnership.
- IPE has ongoing relationships with the BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association and First Call.

IPE/BC Fellows

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Patti Bacchus● Charley Beresford● Carla Bergman● Liz Blackwood● Jane Bouey● David Chudnovsky● Gerald Fallon● Lizanne Foster● Andrée Gacoin● Lyndsay Gibson● Budd Hall● Bill Hood● Edward Howe● Igluka Ivanova● Anjum Kahn● Crawford Killian● Larry Kuehn● Dan Laitsch● Shannon Leddy● Andrew Longhurst● Moira Mackenzie● John Malcolmson | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sandra Mathison● Kathryn McNaughton● Kevin Millsip● Adrienne Montani● Vis Naidoo● Stephen Petrina● Wendy Poole● Michael Rattray● E. Wayne Ross● Michal Rozworski● Hans Schuetze● Vicheth Sen● Öslem Sensoy● Paul Shaker● Bárbara Silva● Michelle Stack● Paul Tetrault● Fei Wang● Robert Whiteley● Brynn Williams● John Willinsky● Christine Ho Younghusband |
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Finances

IPE Annual Financial Report: March 2022 - March 2023

OPENING BALANCE March 2022 **13786.71**

EXPENDITURES:

CanTrust	462.00
Zoom expenditures	167.89
First Call Membership and support	233.63
SFU Planning Session	280.80
PO Box and postage	191.10
Societies Branch	40.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: **1375.42**

REVENUES:

Donations:	10000.00
TOTAL REVENUES:	10000.00
CLOSING BALANCE, March 2023:	22411.29

Administration and Report from the Chair

The Chair of the Board of Directors for IPE is the public face of the organization and responsible for convening the Board of Directors, maintaining the organization's e-mail and communicating with Board Committees. The current Chair is Dan Laitsch. Dan is also the Chair of the Administration Committee. The Director of Administration is the operational lead on the Board of Directors. They are responsible for ensuring the organizations fiduciary responsibilities are met, as well as fulfilling governmental reporting and accountability requirements.

Over the course of the past year IPE/BC accomplished the following within the two portfolios.

1. Regular Board meetings
 - Since our last AGM, the Board has met seven times and held two special meetings, one on decolonization and one on IPE/BC leadership and Fellows.
2. Directing requests and information to appropriate Committees
 - Maintained regular communication with the program area committees as part of monitoring e-mails and chairing regular board meetings.
3. Acting as spokesperson for IPE/BC as needed
 - IPE/BC has worked hard over the past year to build relationships with our partners in the education sector. As a result, the Chair made presentations or held meetings with leadership at external organizations, including the BCPVPA; the BCTF; BCTF locals; the CCPA; and the Columbia Institute.
4. Maintained IPE's *Bylaws* and the *Policies, Guidelines, Rules Manual*
5. Compiled IPE's Annual Report
6. Scheduled all Board and General meetings
7. Filed required government reports: worked with the Treasurer to update the list of Board members with the Province and submit our post AGM report.

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