



*Institute for*  
**Public Education / British Columbia**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

***public education is a public interest***

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# Our Vision

We believe public education is in the public interest... that **high quality public education** that is **accessible** and **welcoming to all** is essential to a **strong democracy**.

# Our Mission

Through **RESEARCH** and **ANALYSIS** we provide high quality information and leadership to **BUILD A STRONG PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM** for British Columbia's children, families, and communities.

## Strategic Priorities

Grow as a nonpartisan voice on current issues in BC education.

- ✓ Develop communication strategies.
- ✓ BC Education at a Glance project.
- ✓ Perspectives blog.
- ✓ Seek ongoing operational funding.
- ✓ Develop relationships with BC education stakeholders, including IPE/BC Fellows.
- ✓ Stewardship of the BC Charter for Public Education

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

- ✓ Develop the BC State of Education project.
- ✓ Build a multi-faceted research project on educational funding in BC.
- ✓ Submit briefs on education policy to government.
- ✓ Seek funding for research initiatives.

Protect public education from privatization.

- ✓ Raise awareness through workshops & presentations.
- ✓ Foster discussion on the impact of privatization.
- ✓ Conduct research on privatization.

## Grow as a nonpartisan voice on current issues in BC education.

During 2019, IPE/BC continued to foster relationships with education groups across BC.

The BC Ed at a Glance project has continued to much success. The brief infographics are shared on social media and have proven to be good tools for provoking discussion and providing facts about the state of education in the province. Many of the infographics have focused on public subsidies for private schools in BC, a strategic priority for IPE.



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During this year, IPE/BC assume stewardship of the BC Charter for Public Education, an historic document detailing what British Columbians see as the role of public schools. Until this year, PENS (Public Education Network) held this role but with their dissolution this honour was transferred to IPE. With financial support from YEM (Your Education Matters) IPE held a half day workshop on the Charter. All of the living members of the original panel joined the workshop for an insightful Q & A, which was followed by working groups considering the relevance of the Charter today as well as brainstorming ways the Charter might continue to be used to support and strength public education.

We continue to work on finding sustained and sustainable ways to fund IPE/BC and strive to broaden and deepen our connections with Fellows, the many individual and organizational friends of IPE/BC.

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

IPE/BC has completed what we hope is the first part of a wide ranging study of school finance in BC. A technical report summarizing the structure of educational funding across Canada has been completed. This research was possible only with the collaboration of a number of our Fellows, their organizations, and the support from two summer interns. This technical report, *Education Funding Models in Canada: Patterns of Similarity and Details of Difference*, will be available soon on our website. IPE envisions this as a first step in continued examination of not just the structure of funding but also issues of equity, access and adequacy of educational funding.

In the spring, IPE partnered with a non-profit organization, Lochmaddy Foundation, to conduct a public opinion poll of BCers views about public subsidies for private schools. While there have been other similar polls out data illustrate a clear trend and a growing resistance to such subsidies. This information was shared in press releases, through the BC Ed at a Glance project, and in an IPE op ed in the Victoria Times Colonist.



It's time for the BC Ministry of Education to make a change... taxpayer funds should support public schools

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**78% of British Columbians oppose public subsidies to elite private schools**

Source: Insights West poll conducted in May 2019 for IPE/BC

**81% of BCers believe private schools should comply with BC's Human Rights Code to protect students and employees**



Source: Insights West poll for IPE/BC

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**73% of British Columbians believe private schools should pay property taxes**



In 2015, Minister of Education Rob Fleming agreed: "It's staggering to me that the government can award additional tax exemptions to private schools," he said. "It's a complete double standard to say public schools need to tighten their belts and slash programs while the government suggests we can afford more subsidies to private schools."

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IPE/BC has begun planning for new research projects, all of which are in early stages and for which we are seeking funding.

*Out of Our Pocket*: a study of teacher personal spending on classroom supplies and support for students.

*The Role of Educational Assistants*: a study of how EAs work and with whom.

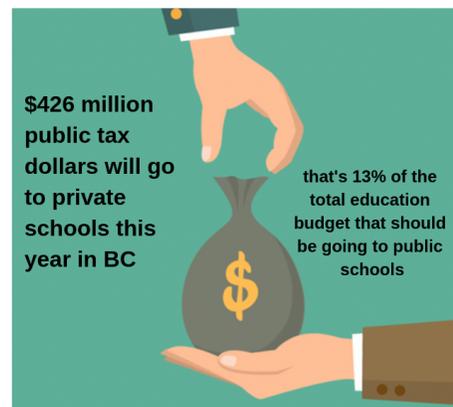
*Adequacy of Educational Funding*: as a continuation of IPE's study on the structure of educational funding this study will shift the focus to adequacy of funding.

IPE is still seeking the support to bring the *State of Education in BC Project* (historical, research based reports on a broad range of educational issues) to fruition.

## 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.

- ✓ The BC Ed at a Glance communication strategy has been primarily focused on this issue, utilizing widely available data from various organizations such as CCPA, BCTF and the BC Humanist Association.
- ✓ IPE partnered with Lochmaddy Foundation and Insights West to conduct a poll in the spring gauging public sentiment on the issues, disseminating these data widely.
- ✓ Outlined a strategy in a Times Colonist op ed to phase out public subsidies to private schools.
- ✓ Completed the first of what will be an annual report on the amount of public money being funneled into private schooling.
- ✓ Several blog posts addressed this issue on our blog Perspectives focusing on broader issues of privatization such as the myth that private schools are better, the inherent privatization when choice and options are a part of public education, and the often invisible impact tech giants have on curriculum and pedagogy.



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# Financial Report

**OPENING BALANCE March, 2019** **14,101.82**

## EXPENDITURES

Society Act	120.
SFU Charter Event	614.34
*MITACS	7875.
Affinity Bridge	275.63
SFU	196.88
Westland insurance	407.
CanTrust Hosting	504.
Staffing	500.

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** **10,492.85**

## REVENUES

BCTF	2500.
Public Education Network	3600.
Interest	9.12

**TOTAL REVENUES** **6,108.01**

**CLOSING BALANCE March, 2020** **9,716.98**

### Addendum to the Financial Report – March 6, 2020

\*While the financial report satisfies IPE's requirements under the Societies Act, it does not reflect the totality of our financial circumstances in the past year. By engaging in cooperative ventures and partnerships IPE was able to leverage substantial additional resources that are not reflected in the report – and which contributed significantly to our work.

For instance, the report shows an expenditure of \$7875 to **MITACS**. **MITACS** is a non-profit national research organization that, in partnerships with [Canadian](#) academia, private industry and government, operates [research](#) and training programs in fields related to [industrial](#) and social innovation. **MITACS** provides matching grants to partners for designated approved projects. The IPE project "**Education Funding Models in Canada—Patterns of Similarity and Details of Difference**" is one such initiative.

This **IPE/MITACS/SFU** partnership generated a contribution of \$7500 to the project from **MITACS** for a total budget of \$15,375. The funds were used for salary and benefits for research, a stipend for writing and writing support, and for expenditures on template creation, copy-editing, layout and production.

IPE also engaged in a partnership with **First Call** and the **Lochmaddy Foundation** on a public opinion poll that quantified British Columbians' support (or, more properly, their lack of support) for funding of private schools. The **Lochmaddy Foundation** contributed \$6,300 to the cost of the poll.

While this funding is not, and should not be, reflected in the IPE Financial Report the project was a significant part of IPE's key commitment to opposing privatization of public schools and generated substantial media and public discussion.



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