



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

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

***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.

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

Protect public education from privatization.

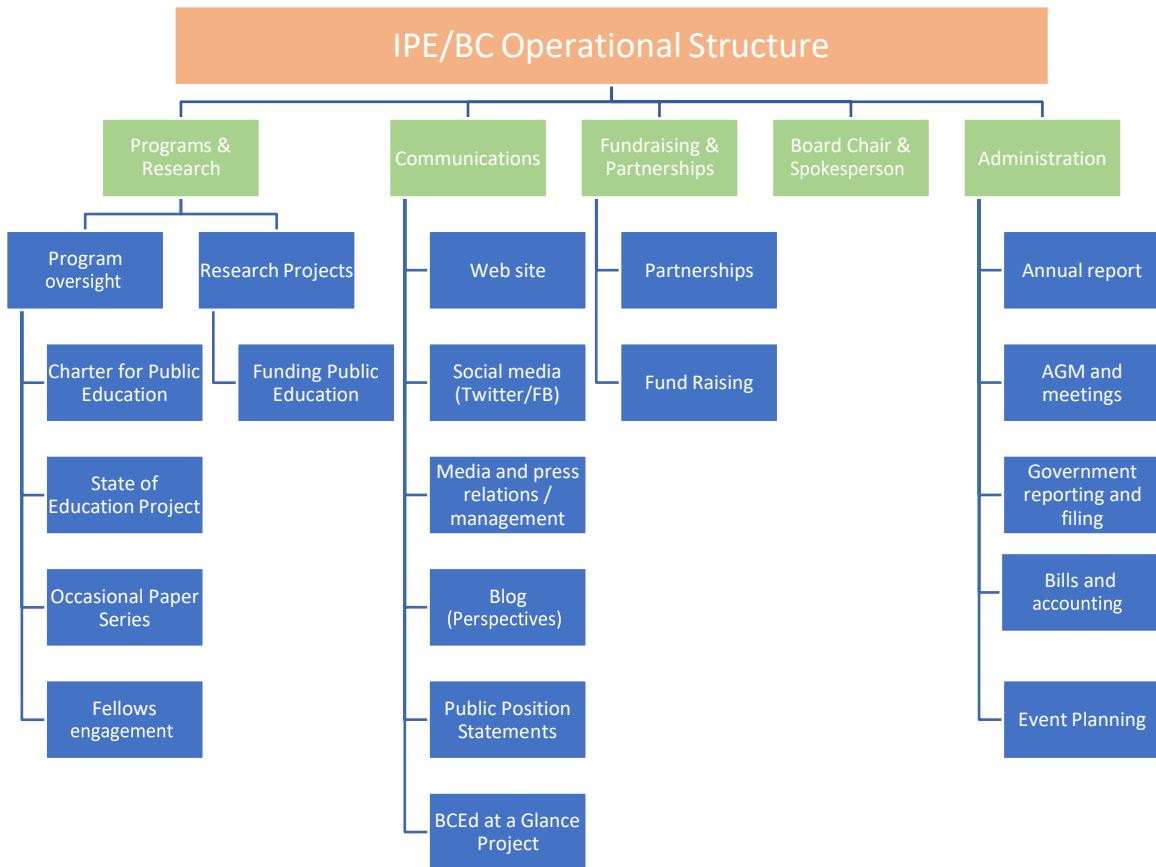
## Who We Are

David Chudnovsky; Larry Kuehn; Dan Laitsch; Moira Mackenzie; John Malcolmson; Sandra Mathison; Christine Younghusband

## Our Vision, Our Activity

### Reorganizing

In 2021, the IPE/BC Board moved from a general board governing by consensus to 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.



In 2021, the following Board members assumed roles as Committee Chairs. Christine Younghusband and Sandra Mathison supported Committee chairs across their portfolios.

- |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Dan Laitsch</p> <p>Larry Kuehn (and John Malcolmson)</p> <p>Moira Mackenzie</p> <p>David Chudnovsky</p> | <p>Board Chair</p> <p>Chair, Administration</p> <p>Chair, Research &amp; Programs</p> <p>Chair, Communications</p> <p>Fundraising and Partnerships</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Our Vision, Communication and Research

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

IPE/BC submitted its recommendations for the 2022 provincial budget to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. We focused on the urgent need to place a priority on funding initiatives that support our most vulnerable learners, specifically recommending that the budget include additional funding for:

- the inclusion of students with special needs.
- access to adequate, nutritious food.
- better provisions for health and safety, and
- equitable access to technology.

The full brief can be found on the IPE/BC website.

The *Perspectives Blog* provided a space for contributors to present their views on education issues. Since the last AGM there have been six posts by a variety of authors to the Perspectives Blog, covering such topics as the Charter for Public Education, the changes to the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act in BC, the need to tackle racism in public schools and districts, and a challenge to an article on education funding published in the Canadian Journal of Educational Administration and Policy.

Created the IPE/BC Commons to maintain an independent voice on K-12 education matters while reaching out to and recognizing the work of allied organizations. The Commons is divided into the following categories, with capacity to add more as it develops: Education funding; Education policy and practice; Education for social justice and sustainability; Equity, access, and inclusion; Indigenization in education; Leadership and governance; Public education and privatization; Technology and public education; The pandemic and public education.

Launched an electronic newsletter. The first issue of [IPE/BC News](#), an occasional electronic newsletter, was published last June with subsequent issues in September and January. The intention is to publish the newsletter on a quarterly basis with the addition of special editions on emerging issues as needed. The newsletter provides a way to keep IPE/BC Fellows, contacts, and subscribers up to date on the work of the institute and to share other items of interest to supporters of quality public education.

### 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 thereby enabling formal testing. As part of this, we are interested in getting feedback on the categories we have developed for differentiating out of pocket spending. We have also developed a guide to the system and a feedback form for use by teacher testers. 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.

*Critical Response to “A Short History of K-12 Public School Spending in British Columbia”*: Recently a scholar at UBC published research claiming that “K-12 public education spending in British Columbia – adjusted for inflation – is 250 percent higher in 2020 than it was in 1970”. Concerned that readers might misinterpret such a claim, we authored an article offering both a critique and a more carefully conducted analysis of the available data in an effort to correct the scholarly and public record.

*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.

## 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.

*CCPA/BCTF Think Tank of Privatization in Education*: IPE/BC participated in the think tank held in May.

*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.

- An important relationship was begun with the BC Principals’ and Vice-Principals’ Association.
- We continued our dialogue with the BC Retired Teachers’ Association.
- Our OOPs Project included collaboration with the BCTF Research Department, the CCPA BC Office and the IT Department at SFU.
- IPE presented a very well-received workshop at the 2021 Columbia Institute Conference – and has been invited to present workshops at the 2022 Conference.
- Workshops presented at the Surrey Teachers’ Association Professional Development Conference.
- IPE has become a partner of First Call – BC’s Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition – and we made a presentation introducing IPE to a First Call Membership Meeting.
- An introduction to IPE was provided to the Table Officers of the BCTF.
- The BCTF recently designated an ongoing liaison to enhance communication between the organizations.
- Introductions to IPE and the OOPs project were done for the Burnaby Teachers’ Association, the Surrey Teachers’ Association and the Victoria Teachers’ Association.
- Discussions on deepening our relationship with CUPE BC were begun.
- Generous donations were received from BCTF, Surrey Teachers’ Association, Burnaby Teachers’ Association, Victoria Teachers’ Association. (These are reflected in the Annual Financial Report)

- In-kind support was provided by Simon Fraser University, CCPA and BCTF.
- We are pleased to have welcomed six new fellows to IPE BC

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

## Finances

Financial Report: March 2020 – February 2021

	OPENING BALANCE	
<b>February 2021</b>		<b>\$7802.33</b>
	EXPENDITURES	
Affinity Bridge		\$244.11
Cantrust		\$504
First Call		\$100
Zoom subscription		\$210.45
PO Box and postage		\$207.06
	Total Expenditures	\$1265.62
	REVENUES	
Donations -		\$7250
	Total Revenues	\$7250
	CLOSING BALANCE	
<b>March 2022</b>		<b>\$13,786.71</b>

## 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. Hosting the IPE/BC email address
  - In 2021 we established a new IPE/BC email domain, [\\*@publicedbc.ca](mailto:info@publicedbc.ca). Currently we receive e-mail through two addresses: [publiceducationbc@gmail.com](mailto:publiceducationbc@gmail.com) and [info@publicedbc.ca](mailto:info@publicedbc.ca). While we have moved our official communications to the [info@publicedbc.ca](mailto:info@publicedbc.ca) address, we maintain the [publiceducationbc@gmail.com](mailto:publiceducationbc@gmail.com) address for legacy messages.
3. 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.
4. 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 ten external organizations, including the BCPVPA; the BCTF; BCTF locals in Surrey; Victoria and Burnaby; the CCPA; the Columbia Institute; Inclusion BC; and the Retired Teachers Association. The Chair represented IPE/BC at the Think Tank on Privatisation in Education sponsored by the CCPA and BCTF and attended the Corporate Mapping Project looking at the influence of corporate money in social policy areas.
5. Maintained IPE's *Bylaws* and the *Policies, Guidelines, Rules Manual*. We also updated the organization governing structure to focus on programs and services including designating Directors with the following portfolios: Administration; Communication; Fundraising and Partnerships; Programs & Research; and Board Chair and Spokesperson.
6. Compiled IPE's Annual Report
7. Scheduled all Board and General meetings

8. Filed required government reports: worked with the Treasurer to update the list of Board members with the Province and submit our post AGM report.
9. Supported the organization's Treasurer: worked with the Treasurer, David Chudnovsky to ensure continuity in signing authority for IPE/BC accounts.
10. Coordinated IPE public events: Due to the pandemic, the only public event IPE held in 2021 was the AGM, although as noted above, IPE was well represented at a variety of public events over the past year.

## **A Special Thanks**

The IPE Board wishes to express a special note of thanks to departing Director Sandra Mathison. IPE/BC would never have come into existence without your intellect, energy, and leadership over the past decade. From creation of the Great Schools Project to the establishment of IPE/BC, we acknowledge your leadership and offer our gratitude.





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