

IPE/BC News



Engagement in the election and beyond

The Institute for Public Education/BC is a non-partisan organization, however we are firmly in support of quality public education that's inclusive, accessible and well-funded. As such, we promoted IPE/BC's positions and values throughout the BC election period and [sent a set of questions to the candidates in each electoral district](#), publishing [the responses we received](#).

We're now turning our election webpage into a resource page where you'll find materials to support you in advocating for our public schools. We hope you'll [check it out](#) and [get in touch](#) to share any links and resources you'd recommend that we add to this page.

Perspectives Blog posts on point



Are you tired of seeing public education being used as a political football? Are you worried about the impact of increasing polarization on our neighbourhood schools? You'll want to read our latest Perspectives Blog post by IPE/BC Associate, Andrée Gacoin, [The Impact of the New Rights on the Privatization of Public Education](#).

On a related issue, Patti Bacchus, IPE/BC Director, has written, [A Big No to Big O](#), a Perspectives post about commercialization in our public schools and the ways that corporate interests take advantage of the captive audience of students and their overworked, underpaid teachers.

If you'd like to contribute a blog post on an education issue that you're interested in or have a topic to suggest to us, please don't hesitate to [let us know](#). We'd love to hear from you.

Welcoming the new ministers

Congratulations to the new Minister of Education and Child Care, the Honorable Lisa Beare, who has been an MLA since 2017 and previously held other Cabinet positions. Prior to first being elected to the Legislative Assembly, she served as a school trustee in Maple Ridge. IPE/BC has sent a letter to welcome Minister Beare to the role and request a meeting to talk about our common concerns and the pressing needs in our public school system today. You can read about the priorities we conveyed earlier this year to Premier Eby and then Minister Rachna Singh [here](#).

Our best wishes also to the new Deputy Minister for Education and Childcare, Kathryn Krishna, the Minister for Post-Secondary and Future Skills, the Honorable Anne Kang, and to the Honorable Bowinn Ma, who has been appointed as the Minister of Infrastructure.

The new Infrastructure Ministry will be in responsible for “planning and procurement for major capital projects such as schools, hospitals and other infrastructure to support growing communities.” In our last budget consultation submission, [IPE/BC stressed the need for changes to the capital planning and approval process to reduce the wait time for new schools](#).

Making connections; reaching out



Since we last reported to you, IPE/BC has continued to reach out to others who share a common interest in public education. We're grateful to have:

- had an outreach table and engaged with many retired teachers at the BC Retired Teachers' Association's AGM/Conference in September.
 - facilitated a workshop on our [Hopes and Dreams project](#) at the BCTF's Anti-Racism Conference in November.
 - talked about Hopes and Dreams for public schools with SFU faculty associates and with teacher candidates at BCIT.
 - met with the BCSTA Board of Directors to discuss IPE/BC's projects and advocacy for public education.
- Please [contact us](#) if you have an upcoming meeting or event that we can participate in or if you would just like to talk about IPE/BC and our role. Time spent talking about our public schools is time very well spent indeed.

Great addition to the IPE Board of Directors

We're very pleased to announce that Anna Chudnovsky has joined the IPE/BC Board, bringing our total number of directors to fourteen. Anna, who is a passionate advocate for public education, equity and inclusion, has sixteen years experience teaching grades six and seven and many years of advocacy and organizing. She now works at the BCTF in the community outreach and political action role. Welcome, Anna.

You can read more about all the members of the IPE Board [here](#).

In case you didn't see it

“Amid rising civic discord, is there a different vision for public education that would better prepare young people to become citizens and improve our democratic health?”

The Fall 2024 issue of the *Stanford Social Innovation Review* addressed this question in a very thoughtful and timely article, [A Democratic Vision for Public Schools](#). It's written from the US context but certainly has application here and is well worth taking the time to read.

We're now on Bluesky



If you're not already following IPE/BC on social media, we hope you soon will. Here's where you can find us:

Bluesky- publicedbc.bsky.social

Facebook- [@PublicEdBC](#)

Instagram- [ipe__bc](#) (note that there are 2 underscore symbols)

X- [@PublicEdBC](#)

What's up with charter schools?

Recently, the Fraser Institute renewed its push for charter schools, proposing that the other provinces follow Alberta's lead in diverting public funds into privately run charter schools. At IPE/BC we firmly believe [that public tax dollars should not be used for private schools](#). If you'd like to read more about the problems with charter schools, here are just a few of the many critiques available:

[Charter schools undermine good education policy](#)

[Are Charter schools really about choice?](#)

[Charter schools erode public education](#)

[Doomed to fail; an analysis of charter school closures from 1998-2002](#)

[Adding Charter schools to Ontario would exacerbate inequities](#)

Making plans



We've been talking about podcasting. It's very early days yet but we thought we'd let you know that we're hoping to get an IPE/BC podcast series off the ground next year. What topics would you like us to address?

Pass it along

If you'd like to have this newsletter delivered directly to your inbox, please subscribe [here](#). Feel free to share it with others and encourage them to subscribe as well. Thank you!



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