



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

public education is a public interest

learn more <http://instituteforpubliceducation.org/>



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

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.

IPE/BC offers analysis of current educational issues, supports public education, and shares current research findings to enrich dialogue on educational issues in British Columbia.

Principles

IPE/BC believes that public education is in the public interest.

The Institute is based on four principles:

- Prioritizing decolonization and reconciliation in policy and practice in public education.
- Commitment to democracy and public education's role in strengthening democratic principles.
- High quality public education for all children.
- Accessible, welcoming and inclusive public schools.

Quality

A decolonizing lens opens the doors to truth and change, and embeds the TRC Calls to Action in schools and professional practice.

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.

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.

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.

Governance

IPE/BC Board of Directors

- Anna Chudnovsky
- Annabree Fairweather
- Bárbara Silva *
- Bryn Williams **
- David Chudnovsky *
- Janice St. Helene
- John Malcolmson *
- Kevin Millsip
- Kirsten Daub
- Larry Kuehn *
- Moira Mackenzie
- Patti Bacchus
- Rory Brown
- Steve Cardwell

Find out more about our hard-working volunteer board here:

<https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/about/board-of-directors/>

Board members serve for two years, but are eligible for renewal (*term expiring).

We say good bye for now to Bryn Williams** who has decided to step back from the IPE Board. We wish Bryn all the best and thank him for his service.

The IPE/BC Board operates through a committee structure intended to build capacity and empower board member activities. The Committee Structure is 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.

The following Board members serve as Committee Chairs:

- Steve Cardwell Board Chairperson
- David Chudnovsky Vice Chairperson/Administration
- Larry Kuehn and John Malcolmson Research & Programs
- Moira Mackenzie Communications
- David Chudnovsky Fundraising and Partnerships

The following Board members chair our project committees:

- David Chudnovsky Hopes and Dreams
- John Malcolmson Out of Our Pockets (OOOPs)
- Anna Chudnovsky Trustee Project
- Patti Bacchus Podcast Project

IPE/BC Fellows ~ Associates

Our advisory group of *Fellows* is being renamed and will now be referred to as *Associates*. Here is a list of all of the IPE/BC Associates.

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

Find out more about our excellent volunteer IPE/BC Fellows ~ Associates:

<https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/about/ipebc-fellows/>

Report from the Chairperson

Steve Cardwell

The Chair of the Board of Directors for IPE is the public face of the organization and responsible for convening the Board of Directors, responding to the organization's incoming e-mail and communicating with Board Committees. The Chair is Dr. Steve Cardwell who joined the Board in August 2023. He quickly became Vice Chairperson and, in December 2023 assumed the role of Chairperson. Steve is also the Chair of the Administration Committee, which is the operational lead for the Board of Directors. The position of Vice Chairperson is David Chudnovsky.

The responsibility for ensuring that the organization's fiduciary requirements are met, as well as fulfilling governmental reporting and accountability requirements lies with the Chair and Vice Chair. This responsibility is currently being handled by the Chair, Steve Cardwell and Vice Chair/Treasurer, David Chudnovsky.

Over the course of the past year IPE/BC accomplished the following:

1. Regular Board meetings. Since our last AGM, the Board has met monthly.
2. A planning retreat was held last April. Another is planned for this spring.
3. Hosting the IPE/BC email address
 - The IPE/BC email domain is [*@publicedbc.ca](mailto:info@publicedbc.ca). We receive e-mail through info@publicedbc.ca. While we have moved our official communications to the info@publicedbc.ca address, we maintain our old publiceducationbc@gmail.com address for legacy messages.
4. 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.
5. 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 and/or colleagues on the Board has met with the leadership at several external organizations, including the BCTF, BCSTA, CLC, CUPE BC, BCTF locals in Nanaimo, Campbell River, Sunshine Coast, Langley, Maple Ridge, Surrey; Victoria and Burnaby, the CCPA; the Columbia Institute; Inclusion BC; and the BC Retired Teachers' Association.
6. Wrote letters to the Premier and Ministers re several issues – BC election, congratulatory messages, requests for meetings, firing of Victoria School Board. Wrote to all DPAC Chairs and to all provincial candidates re provincial election issues.
7. Scheduled and organized and chaired all Board and General meetings. Compiled IPE's Annual Report.

8. The Chair works closely with table officers: Moira Mackenzie (Communications) and David Chudnovsky (Vice Chair) to conduct the day-to-day work of IPE/BC. We have contracted with Isabelle Norris, a qualified primary teacher who is assisting IPE in conducting our business. Isabelle's primary functions include co-planning meetings, searching out and applying for grants, developing the podcast series and assisting other functions of the organization.
9. Moira worked with the Board to revise and update the IPE's *Policy Manual*. The organization's governing structure was previously updated to focus on programs and services including designating Directors with the following portfolios: Administration, Communication, Fundraising and Partnerships, Programs and Research, and Board Chair and Vice Chair roles.
10. Worked with the organization's Treasurer, David Chudnovsky to file required government reports, update the list of Board members with the province, and submit our post AGM report.
11. Supported the organization's Treasurer to ensure continuity in signing authority for IPE/BC accounts.
12. Coordinated IPE public events - IPE was well represented at a variety of public events over the past year.

CTF Award

Last summer, the Institute for Public Education BC was delighted to be recognized by the *Canadian Teachers' Federation*. We were presented with a special award at the CTF annual conference for our advocacy for public education. Steve Cardwell and Moira Mackenzie attended the event to receive the award on behalf of IPE/BC. The IPE/BC Board of Directors is humbled by this prestigious honor and very grateful for this wonderful recognition of the work we volunteer to do on behalf of BC's public schools:

<https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/ipe-bc-receives-public-education-advocacy-award/>

Communications

Moira Mackenzie

Throughout 2024, IPE/BC has continued to use a range of communication tools to connect with others and continue to build support for quality, accessible, inclusive and well-supported public education. Some of the highlights of the 2024 communications are included below.

In the lead up to the provincial election in October, the institute sent a set of questions to all candidates and published the responses on our website along with party platforms as they became available. Additionally, IPE/BC used social media to encourage British Columbians to consider the needs of public schools when they cast their vote.

Through the [Perspectives Blog](#), IPE/BC Directors and Associates, and Guest writers share their views on current issues in public education. This past year, the institute published a record number of blog posts, listed below, and is very grateful to the authors.

- The Role of School Police Liaison Officers; Do We Really Need Them (Sharon O’Dornan)
- The Impact of the New Rights on the Privatization of Public Education. (Andrée Gacoin)
- A Big No to Big O (tackling the question of corporate intrusion into public schools (Patti Bacchus)
- Let’s Make Public Education and Election Issue (Patti Bacchus)
- Gone Forever: The Folly of Selling Off School Properties (Rory Brown)
- BC Public School Enrolment Expected to Surge in the Fall of 2024 (John Malcolmson)
- Public Education Should be Free (Larry Kuehn)
- NATO’s 2% and Public School Funding (John Malcolmson)
- The IPE/BC Welcomes the Prime Minister’s April 1st School Meals Program Announcement (Patti Bacchus)
- Decolonizing Dialogues; The Auto-Pedagogical Potential of Encounters with Indigenous Art (Shannon Leddy)
- Reflections on the Teacher Shortage: How Teachers are Paid Reinforces the Problem (John Malcolmson)

In addition to using Instagram, Facebook and X to build community around the importance of quality public education, IPE/BC joined Blue Sky in the fall of 2024. We will continue to evaluate the ability of each platform to provide a venue for productive and respectful dialogue on education issues.

IPE can be found at:

- Facebook and still on X - [@PublicEdBC](#)
- Instagram: [ipe__BC](#) (note: 2 underscore symbols)
- Blue Sky: [@publicedbc.bsky.social](#)

We were very pleased to report that the [IPE/BC News](#) readership increased significantly this year. We now send the electronic newsletter directly to over 350 contacts and subscribers, in addition to posting it to the website. Thanks very much to everyone who signed up in person at workshops, conferences and events.

In 2024, IPE/BC began planning to update the website and launch a podcast series, two projects which we hope to complete in 2025.

Public Education Exchange (PEX)

Board Director, Patti Bacchus submitted an article on how public funding for private schools contributes to societal divisions (and should be stopped) to the Public Education Exchange (PEX). The article was published in Our Schools Our Selves — Winter/Spring 2025 issue and was widely shared across the country. It can be read here:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/news-research/increased-public-funding-for-private-schools-is-dividing-us-and-needs-to-stop/>

Advocacy

- In the absence of a legislative consultation process for the 2025 Provincial Budget, IPE/BC has outlined its priority funding recommendations in the following submission to government: <https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Placing-a-Priority-on-Public-Education.pdf>
This was copied to the Premier and Ministers of Education and Childcare, Finance, Post-Secondary and Future Skills, and Infrastructure and copied it to BCEdAccess, Inclusion BC, ABCDE, BCTF, CUPE, BCSTA, BCASBO, BCPVPA, BCSSA, FPSE, BCCPAC, and CUFA.
- Issued a Statement on the firing of the democratically elected Greater Victoria School Board: <https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/ipe-bc-statement-on-the-firing-of-the-democratically-elected-greater-victoria-school-board/>
- Sent letter to the Minister of Education and Childcare asking for a pause on the school police liaison program: <https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Minister-Beare-Re-SPLO-Programs-05012025.pdf>
- Sent letters to the new Ministers of Education and Childcare, Infrastructure and Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills congratulating their appointments and requesting meetings.
- Met with the Chief of Staff in the office of the Minister for Post-Secondary and Future Skills.
- Sent two letters to the Premier regarding funding for public education: <https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/ipe-bc-letter-of-concern-to-premier-eby/>
- Wrote to all provincial candidates and the leaders of the three main political parties seeking their response to a series of key education questions. Shared the questions for candidates with all DPACs.
- 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* posted to our website and shared on social media.
- *Out of Our Pockets (OOPs)*: designed in part to confront and make transparent the provincial reliance educators subsidizing core services within public education.

Partnerships and Activities

This year saw IPE's continued engagement with other groups and organizations:

- IPE/BC continues to develop and deepen partnerships with a range of organizations and individuals.
- We continued our dialogue with the BC Retired Teachers' Association.
- We appreciate the support we have received for our "Out of Our Pockets" project from Simon Fraser University. We are following up on our previous connections with the Surrey Teachers' Association to implement OOPs.
- An introduction to the Trustee Project was provided last year to the Table Officers of the BCTF. The BCTF has designated an ongoing liaison to enhance communication between the organizations. We are fortunate to have Anna Chudnovsky as co-chair of the Trustee project.
- IPE is working with the BCTF and CUPE BC 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.
- IPE is deepening its relationship with CUPE BC with the addition of a new Board member, Kirsten Daub, representing CUPE BC and the addition of a CUPE BC, Karie Scott-Whyte co-chairing the Trustee Project.
- IPE is deepening its relationship with CUFA BC with the addition of a new Board member, Annabree Fairweather representing CUFA BC (Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia)
- IPE had a table at the BCTF Representative Assembly (RA).
- IPE met with table officers of the BCSTA to clarify our roles in public education and that of trustees. This was our second such meeting.
- 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, the Trustee Project, and OOOOP.
- Our annual analysis of the provincial subsidy to Private Schools continued again through a collaboration with the BC Office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.
- IPE is facilitating a session at the Columbia Institute High Ground Conference. This is an important and symbiotic partnership.
- IPE has an ongoing relationship with the BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association through past board member Bryn Williams.
- IPE has an ongoing relationship with First Call through board member Moira Mackenzie.
- IPE was in Nanaimo last spring and presented the Hopes and Dreams and the Trustee Project – first with the Nanaimo Teachers' Association and then with the larger community.
- IPE will be presenting this June once again at the Inclusion BC conference with a focus on the Hopes and Dreams project.

Projects

Hopes and Dreams for Public Education in BC

Sub-Committee Chair - David Chudnovsky

The Hopes and Dreams (H&D) for Public Education 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 has developed the H&D project to respond to this new context and to help our province's public education system benefit from the advice, experience and wisdom of our project participants across BC. We describe the project in the following way:

“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? We don't often have the time or opportunity to discuss, debate, or engage with each other about the future of

public schools and learning. But shouldn't we be talking about these issues? We've now spoken with several hundred people, and asked them about their hopes and dreams for our schools. We are trying to model a positive tone. Our participants have been very supportive of the opportunity we provide and the attempt to turn legitimate criticisms into inspirational discussion.”

In 2023 IPE and the H&D Project began consultations facilitating discussions with several significant groups. In 2024 and early in 2025 the project has grown substantially. It has been presented to many hundreds of participants in more than a dozen workshops. The workshop design has been developed and refined and is extremely successful in eliciting responses from participants. There are an additional 8 - 10 workshop sessions confirmed or in the planning process to be held between February and June 2025. Of note this year is the significant participation of CUPE BC members, many of them Education Assistants. Special thanks to Kirsten Daub for her important leadership in facilitating this very positive development.

An identified challenge of the project is that we have not yet heard from school administrators, students or Indigenous people and their communities. Important and substantive work is in progress to remedy these weaknesses.

We expect to report to the community, to government and to participants the results of the H&D consultations some time in 2026.

The H&D Sub-Committee includes: David Chudnovsky, Steve Cardwell, Bárbara Silva, Moira Mackenzie, Rory Brown, Janice St. Helene, Anna Chudnovsky. The Hopes and Dreams Project can be found on the IPE website: <https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/hopes-and-dreams/>

The Trustee Project

Sub-Committee Chairs - Anna Chudnovsky and Kari Scott-Whyte

The Trustee Project (TP) is a collaboration between the Institute for Public Education and the Columbia Institute.

The purpose is to develop an ongoing program of support, training, research, and network building that will help progressively minded School Board Trustees in the implementation of progressive agendas in BC school districts.

The Project will provide education and training that enhances trustees' abilities to govern school boards in a progressive manner and to work with one another across districts to ultimately build a more equitable and just K-12 public education system for all.

The Trustee Project has 3 key goals:

1. To build and support a self-sustaining network of trustees with shared values.
2. To support local advocacy and action in service of public education.
3. To document and create materials and research that supports ongoing learning for progressive trustees.

Actions to date include:

- Several meetings have been held through the year, including meetings to plan a website presence along with the creation of promotional materials.
- Two Focus Group sessions were held *last year* with invited trustees. This was to hear from progressive trustees about their experiences and support needs.
- A webinar was held *last year* about budget advocacy. This was co-presented by Anna Chudnovsky (BCTF) and Jennifer Ready (VSB trustee).
- A morning dedicated to supporting trustees was held at High Ground last year. This featured former Secretary Treasurer for CUPE BC, Trevor Davies and President of the BCTF, Clint Johnston. They spoke about the State of Education in BC. Another interactive opportunity for trustees to gather and share ideas is planned for the upcoming High Ground conference.
- The Trustee Project can be found on the IPE website:
<https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/the-school-trustee-project/>

The TP planning committee includes: Anna Chudnovsky (BCTF), Kari Scott-Whyte (CUPE BC), Patti Bacchus, Kevin Millsip, and Steve Cardwell.

Out of Our Pockets (OOPs)

Sub-Committee Chair - John Malcolmson

Out of Our Pockets (OOPs) is a research initiative aimed at gathering data on the degree to which teachers and other school staff use their own personal money to subsidize public schools. This is an area that has received little research attention, both here in BC and Canada as well as internationally.

Over the past three years, our online platform had been developed and tested as a way of confirming its viability for data gathering. Now that this phase has been completed, IPE/BC is exploring opportunities for direct partnering with local teacher associations and teachers in local schools interested in supporting OOP's research goals. It is our expectation that the project will soon identify a specific participant base and be in a position to implement data gathering this fall. Once data gathering is complete, the project expects to move onto data analysis and reporting, likely in the spring of 2026.

Podcast Series

Sub-Committee Chairs - Patti Bacchus

We are excited to announce the development of a new podcast series. Supported by our admin contractor, Isabelle Norris, we are planning a series of monthly podcasts. Each month, the hosts will discuss current issues in the education sector and have invited guests to discuss key topics. The podcast will be made available to the public for free and will feature important topics and issues that are relevant to parents, educators, support staff and others in the education sector and within the larger public realm.

The Podcast Committee includes Patti Bacchus, Steve Cardwell and supported by Isabelle Norris.

Finances

Treasurer - David Chudnovsky

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OPENING BALANCE March 2024	\$	17,798.18
EXPENDITURES		
SFU IPE AGM	\$	823.90
Society Act Postal Charges etc.	\$	499.94
H&D printing, zoom etc.	\$	867.09
CanTrust	\$	504.00
BCCPAC	\$	860.00
Book prizes	\$	222.51
Board retreat	\$	440.41
Hotel, conferences H&D	\$	2,045.48
Contracted Admin Assistant	\$	3,449.08
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	9,712.41
REVENUES		
Donations	\$	16,600.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	16,600.00
CLOSING BALANCE March, 2025	\$	24,686.39 *

* A significant grant for \$5,000 has been approved to IPE from the Canadian Union of Public Employees for use in supporting the Hopes and Dreams Project. We have not yet received those monies so they are not yet reflected in this budget statement. However, on receipt of the grant the IPE bank balance will be about \$29,000.

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