



**BCSTA**

British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

# **TRUSTEE ACADEMY 2014**

## **BOARD GOVERNANCE: CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE BOARDS OF EDUCATION**

**December 4-6, 2014**  
**Hyatt Regency Hotel**  
**Vancouver, BC**

# **TRUSTEE ACADEMY**

## **BOARD GOVERNANCE: CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE BOARDS OF EDUCATION**

The theme of this year's Trustee Academy is "*Board Governance: Characteristics of Effective Boards of Education.*" Attendees can expect an informative and inspirational program with an opening keynote address from the former Prime Minister of Canada, Joe Clark. Both newly-elected and long-serving trustees will find this to be an opportunity to come together for three days of networking and professional learning.

# WELCOME TO BCSTA'S TRUSTEE ACADEMY

Here are some basic information to assist Academy delegates at the event.

## EMERGENCIES

In case of emergencies, call 911. If possible, please also notify the BCSTA registration desk.

## LOST AND FOUND

Check with the BCSTA registration desk. Unclaimed items will be handed over to the hotel front desk at the end of each day.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect with fellow trustees using social media at this year's Trustee Academy. Keep your tweets relevant and searchable, use the hashtag #BCSTA, and follow our feed @BC\_STA.

## ALLERGIES AND DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

Strongly-perfumed products may trigger allergy symptoms in some delegates. As a courtesy, please avoid the use of scented products.

Delegates who have indicated dietary restrictions when they registered will receive special meal vouchers when they claim their name badges at the BCSTA registration desk.

## PHOTOS

Photos taken at Trustee Academy will be posted on the BCSTA Flickr stream as they become available. You may view them online at [flickr.com/photos/bcsta/](http://flickr.com/photos/bcsta/).

## EVALUATION

An evaluation form asking for your feedback regarding Trustee Academy will be found online after the event at [fluidsurveys.com/s/academy2014/](http://fluidsurveys.com/s/academy2014/).

A link to the evaluation will also be sent to delegates by email following the conference. Your opinions and suggestions help us to improve future events.

# PROGRAM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014

## TIME/VENUE

## EVENT

12:00 p.m.

Regency Foyer

**Registration opens**

1:00

Regency A/B

**Pre-conference opening**

1:10-2:10

**Statutory Foundations**

- Dave Duerksen, *Executive Director, Accountability, Governance/Legislation & Corporate Reporting*, Ministry of Education
- Audrey Ackah, *Legal Counsel*, BCSTA

2:30-4:00

**Understanding Board Budgets and Provincial Funding**

- Larry Paul, *Secretary-Treasurer*, SD23 (Central Okanagan)
- Sterling Olson, *Secretary-Treasurer*, SD83 (Okanagan-Shuswap)

7:00

Regency C/D

**Trustee Academy opening**

Welcome remarks and student performances

7:30-8:45

**Keynote Presentation: *Why Boards Matter: The Difference You Make!***

- The Right Honourable Joe Clark, P.C., C.C.

8:45

Regency Foyer

**President's reception and networking**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014**

**TIME/VENUE**

**EVENT**

**7:15 a.m.**

Regency Foyer

**Registration opens**

(Breakfast provided for delegates)

**7:30-8:45**

See: page 11 for  
venue details

**New Trustee Mentoring Program**

**9:00-9:45**

Regency Ballroom

**The Co-Governance Relationship between  
Government and Boards of Education**

- Teresa Rezansoff, *President, BCSTA*
- Hon. Peter Fassbender, *Minister of Education*

**9:45-10:30**

**Learning Transformation and the Role  
of Trustees**

- Rod Allen, *Asst. Dep. Minister/Superintendent  
of Learning, Ministry of Education*

**10:30-11:00**

**Refreshment break**

**11:00 a.m.-**

**12:00 p.m.**

Regency Ballroom

**Who's Who, Who Does What and Why?**

**Panel discussion with leaders of key  
education partners on their role and yours**

- Kelvin Stretch, *Vice President, BCASBO*
- Renzo Del Negro, *Interim CEO, BCPSEA*
- Gordon Li, *President, BCPVPA*
- Sherry Elwood, *President, BCSSA*

**12:00-1:00**

Regency Ballroom

**Lunch break and Ministry update**

- Dave Byng, *Deputy Minister of Education*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014

**TIME/VENUE**

**EVENT**

**1:15-2:15**

Plaza A  
(Second Floor)

**Concurrent sessions**

**C1. Meeting Skills and Rules 101 and  
The Stellar Chair**

- Eli Mina, *Board Effectiveness Consultant and Registered Parliamentarian*

Plaza B  
(Second Floor)

**C2. Authentic Governance through  
Ethical Leadership**

- Cindy Dekker, *Board Chair, SD45 (West Vancouver)*
- Chris Kennedy, *Superintendent, SD45*

Plaza C  
(Second Floor)

**C3. Conflict of Interest**

- Michael Hancock, *Associate Counsel, Harris & Co.*
- Audrey Ackah, *Legal Counsel, BCSTA*

Georgia A  
(Second Floor)

**C4. Governance through Policy - how policy  
clarifies Board and Staff roles**

- Terry Clark, *President, Real Board Solutions*

Georgia B  
(Second Floor)

**C5. Promoting Community Engagement:  
Communications and Media Relations -  
Connecting with your community**

- Victoria Miles, *Communications Manager, SD44 (North Vancouver)*

Balmoral  
(Third Floor)

**C6. Engaging all Leaders with  
Aboriginal Understandings**

- Laura Tait, *District Principal, Aboriginal Education, SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)*

**2:15-2:30**

**Refreshment break**

**2:45-3:45**

**Concurrent sessions repeated**

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014

### TIME/VENUE

### EVENT

**7:15 a.m.**

Regency Foyer

**Registration opens**

(Breakfast provided for delegates)

**7:30-9:00**

See: page 18 for  
venue details

**BCSTA Branch breakfast meetings**

**9:15-10:30**

Regency Ballroom

**Building Your Board as a Team**

How does the role of a trustee influence the effectiveness of the Board as a team?

1. Leadership
2. Relationships
3. Accountability

- Kathy Sawchuk, *retired Superintendent*, SD59 (Peace River South)
- Gaila Erickson, *Director of Education*, BCSTA

**10:30-11:00**

**Refreshment break**

**11:00 a.m.-  
12:00 p.m.**

Regency Ballroom

**ED'S CAFE - with "Issues de Jour" on the Menu: An opportunity to taste the latest hot topics!**

- Phil Cady, *President*, CLSWEST Inc.

**12:00-1:00**

Regency Ballroom

**Lunch Break**

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014

### TIME/VENUE

### EVENT

**1:15-3:45**

Regency Ballroom

#### **Ministry of Education sessions**

##### **Accountability framework**

- Dean Goodman, *Director of Accountability, Accountability, Governance/Legislation and Corporate Reporting*
- Ian Rongve, *Assistant Deputy Minister / Knowledge Management and Accountability*

##### **Shared services**

- Jill Kot, *Assistant Deputy Minister, Services and Technology Division*

**3:45**

**Adjourn**



## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

### STATUTORY FOUNDATIONS

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014 / 1:10 P.M. - 2:10 P.M.**

**VENUE: REGENCY A/B**

- Dave Duerksen, *Executive Director, Accountability, Governance/Legislation & Corporate Reporting*, Ministry of Education
- Audrey Ackah, *Legal Counsel*, BCSTA

Boards of Education operate in a complex legal environment. This session will provide an overview of the *School Act* and other legislation relevant to Boards of Education.

### UNDERSTANDING BOARD BUDGETS AND PROVINCIAL FUNDING

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014 / 2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**VENUE: REGENCY A/B**

- Larry Paul, *Secretary-Treasurer*, SD23 (Central Okanagan)
- Sterling Olson, *Secretary-Treasurer*, SD83 (Okanagan-Shuswap)

School Districts are complex organizations with complicated budgeting processes and confusing funding sources. One of the most important tasks of a Board of Education is to ensure effective stewardship of the District's resources. Often, parents, the public and staff will turn to Trustees to explain the resource allocation decisions of the Board. This session will focus on demystifying School District budget processes and explaining the current provincial funding system so that Trustees can better navigate the upcoming budget process. Sterling Olson and Larry Paul have over 50 years of combined experience with School District financial systems and, through this interactive session, they will guide you through the big picture of School District budget requirements, annual budget processes and system funding.

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

**WHY BOARDS MATTER: THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE!**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014 / 7:30 P.M. - 8:45 P.M.**

**VENUE: REGENCY C/D**

- *The Right Honourable Joe Clark, P.C., C.C.*

“Public service is a privilege, but it is also full of surprises. The initial surprise is that public life is more public than most of us anticipate, in two senses. First, you are always on call; but second, and more important, the public you serve is much broader than the personal opinions and priorities you bring to office and an essential part of your work will be to reconcile legitimate, and sometimes deep, differences among your electors. That is also, often, the most interesting part of your work, as well as the most challenging. If my experience is any example, most of you will learn as much as a school trustee as you did in school itself - and you will find it enlarges your life.”

## NEW TRUSTEE MENTORING PROGRAM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014 / 7:30 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.

### ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

COLOUR		LEAD	ROOM
	Team Blue	Teresa Rezensoff	Oxford
	Team Yellow	Gordon Swan	Prince of Wales
	Team Beige	Alan Chell	Georgia A
	Team Burgundy	Christine Younghusband	Balmoral
	Team Pink	Donna Sargent	Windsor
	Team Green	Valerie Adrian	Georgia B

## FRIDAY PLENARY SESSIONS

### **THE CO-GOVERNANCE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND BOARDS OF EDUCATION**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014 / 9:00 A.M. - 9:45 A.M.**

**VENUE: REGENCY BALLROOM**

- Teresa Rezansoff, *President, BCSTA*
- Peter Fassbender, *Minister of Education*

Boards of Education and the provincial government have been working hard to make BC's schools the best in the world. Join the Minister of Education and the BCSTA President as they discuss how co-governance can help us focus more directly and deeply on student achievement and especially on the conditions under which students will become more successful.

### **LEARNING TRANSFORMATION AND THE ROLE OF TRUSTEES**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014 / 9:45 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.**

**VENUE: REGENCY BALLROOM**

- Rod Allen, *Assistant Deputy Minister / Superintendent of Learning, Ministry of Education*

Your role as trustee provides an opportunity for you to focus strategically on the provincial education mandate. In this session Rod Allen will share the accomplishments of the learning transformation in BC to date and what the next steps are on the journey. He will highlight the crucial roles that schools, districts and particularly trustees play in moving the work forward.

**WHO'S WHO, WHO DOES WHAT AND WHY? PANEL DISCUSSION WITH LEADERS OF KEY EDUCATION PARTNERS ON THEIR ROLE AND YOURS  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014 / 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.  
VENUE: REGENCY BALLROOM**

- Kelvin Stretch, *Vice President*, BC Association of School Business Officials (BCASBO)
- Renzo Del Negro, *Interim CEO*, BC Public School Employers Association (BCPSEA)
- Gordon Li, *President*, BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association (BCPVPA)
- Sherry Elwood, *President*, BC School Superintendents' Association (BCSSA)

Panel discussion with key education leaders. What do you know about other education organizations, what are their responsibilities, how do trustees and education partners work together to make a difference for students and their learning?

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014**

**FIRST SESSION: 1:15 P.M. - 2:15 P.M.**

**SECOND SESSION AT 2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.**

### **C1. MEETING SKILLS AND RULES 101 AND THE STELLAR CHAIR**

#### **VENUE: PLAZA A (SECOND FLOOR)**

- Eli Mina, *Board Effectiveness Consultant and Registered Parliamentarian*

The enthusiasm about serving in public office can quickly vanish if Board meetings become long, repetitive, unproductive and acrimonious. Building on Eli Mina's notion that "suffering is optional," this seminar will provide ideas and tools that Trustees and Board Chairs can use to make meetings efficient, engaging and well focused. This workshop builds, in part, on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* and on Eli's book *101 Boardroom Problems and How to Solve Them*.

Topics include:

- When rules of order are helpful and when they are not
- Core principles for achieving interesting and productive debates
- Roles of the Chair and the Board members in enforcing meeting rules
- Looking beyond meeting procedure: Knowledge-based decision making
- Interactions among elected members, staff and the community at meetings

## **C2. AUTHENTIC GOVERNANCE THROUGH ETHICAL LEADERSHIP**

### **VENUE: PLAZA B (SECOND FLOOR)**

- Cindy Dekker, *Board Chair*, SD45 (West Vancouver)
- Chris Kennedy, *Superintendent*, SD45 (West Vancouver)

Cindy and Chris will share a series of practical strategies that have allowed the West Vancouver Board to develop a clear vision with strong Board governance. Cindy and Chris have found ways to ensure that they are able to support each other's work from calendar planning, to the Board Work Plan, to the creation of the Strategic Plan to Superintendent evaluation. The relationship of the Board with the Superintendent is vital to the success of the School District, and Cindy and Chris will share what they have learned and what has worked for them over the last eight years, and open a discussion on strategies to promote public education in the broader community.

## **C3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

### **VENUE: PLAZA C (SECOND FLOOR)**

- Michael Hancock, *Associate Counsel*, Harris & Co.
- Audrey Ackah, *Legal Counsel*, BCSTA

The session will provide an overview of the legal framework regarding school trustee conflict of interest, and the risks associated with conflict of interest. The presenters will also discuss examples of recent court cases involving conflict of interest.

## **C4. GOVERNANCE THROUGH POLICY: HOW POLICY CLARIFIES BOARD AND STAFF ROLES**

### **VENUE: GEORGIA A (SECOND FLOOR)**

- Terry Clark, *President*, Real Board Solutions

Many trustees of educational governing Boards will find the governance role challenging. The subject of 'governance through policy' is a crucial element as you head into your elected role within our education system.

One of the most critical issues requiring clarification is that of the trustee and staff roles. Both are extremely important yet very different. Serious issues may arise throughout the year without the appreciation and understanding of this area of policy governance.

Terry's workshops are always engaging and interactive. He makes what can have a perception of being a dry subject into a very useful one consisting of high value, high content and definitely time well-spent at this year's Trustee Academy.

You can avoid some land mines while enjoying your work as a trustee by attending this session.



**C5. PROMOTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA RELATIONS – CONNECTING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**  
**VENUE: GEORGIA B (SECOND FLOOR)**

- Victoria Miles, *Communications Manager*, SD44 (North Vancouver)

In the course of any term of service, every Board of Education will, at times, have difficult decisions to make. Engaging the community is a vital and necessary part of this process. In 2012, the North Vancouver Board of Education launched its ground-breaking “Land, Learning and Livability” community engagement process to open local dialogue and broaden understanding of how the school district’s surplus properties might be leveraged for learning. Victoria Miles will provide an overview of this process and how it has helped trustees to connect with the community, hear and understand diverse points of view and move forward with informed decision-making.

**C6. ENGAGING ALL LEADERS WITH ABORIGINAL UNDERSTANDINGS**  
**VENUE: BALMORAL (THIRD FLOOR)**

- Laura Tait, *District Principal, Aboriginal Education*, SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)

Understanding history and how it pertains to Aboriginal people today is a key component to addressing Aboriginal Education in our systems. Ideas around Collective Ownership, Reflective Practice, Aboriginal Worldview, Identity, Relationship and an understanding of Canada’s history are discussed in this interactive presentation. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on these ideas and how they pertain to the work in their districts around Aboriginal student success.

## BRANCH BREAKFAST MEETINGS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014 / 7:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

### ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

BRANCH	ROOM
Fraser Valley	Plaza A
Kootenay Boundary	Plaza B
Metropolitan Branch	Plaza C
North West Branch	Prince of Wales
Northern Interior	Balmoral
South Coast Branch	Oxford
Thompson Okanagan	Georgia A
Vancouver Island	Georgia B

## SATURDAY PLENARY SESSIONS

### BUILDING YOUR BOARD AS A TEAM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014 / 9:15 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

#### VENUE: REGENCY BALLROOM

- Kathy Sawchuk, *retired Superintendent*, SD59 (Peace River South)
- Gaila Erickson, *Director of Education*, BCSTA

Establishing a culture that is continuously looking for better and more effective ways to evolve is part of building a Board of Education that works together as a strong and effective team. How do we increase the relevance of what happens in schools through our role as a trustee? How will your strengths, your Board's strengths and your district strengths create relevance for students in a rapidly changing world?

**ED'S CAFE WITH "ISSUES DE JOUR" ON THE MENU  
AN OPPORTUNITY TO TASTE THE LATEST HOT TOPICS  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014 / 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.  
VENUE: REGENCY BALLROOM**

- Phil Cady, *President, CLSWEST Inc.*

Join this interactive dialogue session and explore some of the opportunities and challenges of governance

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SESSIONS  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014 / 1:15 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.  
VENUE: REGENCY BALLROOM**

**Accountability Framework**

- Dean Goodman, *Director of Accountability, Accountability, Governance/Legislation and Corporate Reporting*
- Ian Rongve, *Assistant Deputy Minister, Knowledge Management and Accountability*

Your role as a trustee provides an opportunity for you to lead in awareness and understanding of the Accountability Framework. In this session, Ian Rongve, ADM Knowledge Management and Accountability Division of the Ministry of Education, will provide a brief overview of the current Accountability Framework, outline what is and what isn't working, and detail the work underway to revise the Framework - including the process and timelines moving forward.

**Shared Services**

- Jill Kot, *Assistant Deputy Minister, Services and Technology Division*

An overview of the Ministry's service delivery project and the provincial direction to maximize efficiencies through shared services among Boards of Education