

**ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL COUNCILS,
BOARDS & COMMITTEES
(AYSCBC)**

**Annual General Meeting
April 15, 2011
Westmark Whitehorse, Yukon**

Annual Report 2011

AYSCBC Executive Members

Chair

Bob Laking

Vice-Chair

Neil Salvin

Treasurer/Secretary

Chris Bookless

Members at Large

Ted Baker

Sandra Henderson

AYSCBC Members

Rural Councils:

Del Van Gorder School Council (Faro)
Eliza Van Bibber School Council (Pelly)
Ghuch Tla School Council (Carcross)
JV Clark School Council (Mayo)
Robert Service School Council (Dawson)
Ross River School Council
St Elias Community School Council (Haines Junction)
Tantalus School Council (Carmacks)
Teslin School Council
Watson Lake School Council

Whitehorse Councils:

FH Collins Secondary School Council
Grey Mountain Primary School Council
Hidden Valley Elementary School Council
Porter Creek Secondary School Council
Selkirk Elementary School Council
Takhini Elementary School Council

Report from the Chair

I continue to enjoy the privilege of serving as Chair of this Association.

Currently the Executive is consists of: Bob Laking (Chair), Neil Salvin (Vice Chair), Chris Bookless (Treasurer), Ted Baker (Director) and Sandra Henderson (Director). Carol Coote is our Executive Director. We are expecting a couple of changes to the executive in the near future.

Last fall was election time for school councils, and we worked very hard to encourage good participation for interested parents and community members in that process. The Fall School Councils' Conference was the best attended for a very long time, and I believe that speaks well of the commitment made by those who have chosen to serve on their local School Council.

Last year I reported that the Association had solicited proposals to develop our website. At the Fall conference we were pleased to announce that the site was up and running at www.ayscbc.org. Since that time we have been adding content and making other improvements, some in response to feedback from our users. Please take a look and let us know what you think. We are happy to get your input and will work hard on any suggestions you may have.

In the past school council members have sought to have input and participation on committees that make decisions on Education issues. Conference recommendations from past years have reflected this. As I previously reported seats have been opened up on several committees for school council participants. Association Executives have worked on some and several other council representatives have also served. We thank everyone for their hard work, and if you'd like to become involved please let us know. The time spent is well worth it and very much appreciated.

The School Growth Planning process was rolled out beginning in the 2009-2010 School year. This initiative has been planned and worked on since early 2008. The Association has been pleased to participate with other groups in developing the process, and Carol and I continue to serve in that planning capacity. The hard work of all the partners in Education has got us to this point. The external reviews are now underway with a target for completion of visits to all schools for the 2011-2012 year. Feedback from these is being shared and helps us all to make our schools better.

Each school year, in the fall and again in the spring, a School Councils Conference is held. The Association has been pleased to be involved in the planning of these events for the last number of years, and our Executive Director has worked on every one. The spring 2011 conference includes two guests from Alaska sharing and facilitating with participants on the theme "Creating a Positive Climate in Our Schools". The Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) has kindly sponsored the participation of Lori Klein, the Manager of their program called Initiative for Community Engagement. AYSBCB is pleased to sponsor the participation of Timi Tullis, the Director of Membership Services for AASB.

The Association has been supporting the participation of our rural members in these semi annual School Council Conferences for some time. The department provides funds for one member to attend conference and last year we were able to extend our support to as many additional members from each rural council that wished to attend. We have received feedback that by doing so we have assisted more rural members

to attend. We continue to look for ways to encourage participation at Conference and welcome any comments you may have.

Since the founding of the Association, the members at each AGM have waived the requirement for an audit of our financial activities. Although this is a somewhat common practice with small societies, this decision has been taken in recent years because of the very large costs related to such an exercise. Recently, we were able to secure a comprehensive review of AYSCBC finances at a reasonable cost, and are pleased to provide that information with the Treasurer's report this year.

The Association is pleased to host an offsite dinner for participants from councils with Association membership at this conference, as we have done since the Fall of 2008. Participants report that they enjoy this chance to mingle and informally share ideas and conversation with their colleagues.

We continue to be very fortunate in enjoying the support of the Minister and Deputy Minister of the Department of Education, and the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Public Schools Branch, as well as their staff. It has been a pleasure to work with these dedicated individuals and we look forward to continuing those relationships.

As always we need to hear from you, our members. How can we assist you in doing your jobs? How should we represent you on committees? How would you like to participate? What initiatives would you like us to pursue? Please call us and let us know. You can contact us via email, phone or in person. Check out our website at www.ayscbc.org and you will find all the different ways to contact us. Feel free to call or email any of the Executive and we'll be happy to respond. Our goal is to enable members to participate in ensuring the best opportunities for students in Yukon.

Bob Laking
Chair

Report from the Executive Director

2010 was yet another exciting year in the life and work of the Association!
A few of the highlights...

A year ago, we were reviewing proposals for the development of the AYSCBC web site. We short-listed three proponents to design a site for us, awarded the contract to a local firm, Elvio Web Design and by November the web site was launched! Having a presence on-line has added another dimension to our communication strategy. Sharing information in a broad and timely manner continues to be a major focus of the work of the Association.

I've been on a steep learning curve about managing the site---(no doubt a teenager would have this all under their belt in no time!) This is clearly a lifelong learning opportunity for me.

Last spring and fall, we put a priority on promoting the Fall 2010 School Council elections by raising awareness and interest in the important role served by people in those seats. The desire to be a part of the local school community decision making body is strong and growing stronger. It was heartening to see there were more school elections held in 2010 than there had been since 2002.

In November, we held the second AYSCBC Long Service Awards which added 6 more people into the history books of those School Council/Board and Association members who have served in their role(s) for 10 years and longer! We were delighted to have the Honourable Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber as our special guest along with Education Minister Patrick Rouble—this event was her last official duty as Yukon Commissioner.

In December, I was fortunate to attend two professional development events in B.C. I can assure you that there is a keen interest wherever I go, in what is happening in Yukon Education. People want to know what we are doing, how our students are doing and it is always an honour to be able to be a delegate from this territory.

The first event was the Regional Sessions of the First Nation Education Steering Committee in Chilliwack at the Cheam First Nation Hall.

Of interest:

--There is a course called English First Peoples that is available for grade 10, 11 and 12 students. It is a full credit load course with different novels that incorporate traditional and contemporary Aboriginal stories and it can be offered in our Yukon schools.

-There is a mandatory B.C. First Nations course for pre-service teachers in that province, the BC College of Teachers has endorsed this requirement; meanwhile here in Yukon, a similar requirement was eliminated just last year.

I also attended the B.C. School Trustees' Association Academy in Vancouver on the same trip. One session was about Leadership for the 21st century and out of a brainstorming session, several key elements of being a good leader were highlighted.

Some of these are:

- * Knowing what you don't know
- * Being clear about your role
- * Knowing the strengths of your group
- * Knowing what you want to achieve
- * Knowing how to make the best use of the knowledge in the group

And having the attributes of

→ integrity, honesty, transparency, respect for one's colleagues and a sense of calm

Throughout the year, Members of the AYSCBC Executive and I have participated on several School Review Teams and we encourage all School Council members to consider becoming involved on a Team, it is a most interesting and enlightening learning experience.

Last year AYSCBC had seats on the Demographics Advisory Committee and the Staffing Allocation Advisory Committee. We have an Executive Member on the Education Appeal Tribunal as well as a former Executive Member on the Teacher Certification Board.

We also continue to sit on many of the Yukon Education committees:

- SCHOOL GROWTH PLANNING ADVISORY
- ADMINISTRATOR GROWTH PLANNING ADVISORY
- LEADERSHIP ADVISORY
- EDUCATION POLICY ADVISORY
- YUKON STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM
- SPECIAL PROGRAMS ADVISORY
- EARLY CHILDHOOD TRANSITION
- SECONDARY PROGRAMMING
- BUILDING ADVISORY
- FRENCH PROGRAM REVIEW

We appreciate the opportunities these multi-partner groups working sessions provide to increase our mutual understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities in doing what's best for student learning.

As always, we welcome your comments, queries, requests and suggestions. Our aim is to assist you in the work you do in your community to improve the educational outcomes of Yukon students. Let us know how we can best serve your School Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Coote

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