



**ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL
COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

**WORKPLAN
2011**

*As approved at
AYSCBC Annual General Meeting
April 15, 2011*

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Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards and Committees (AYSCBC)

BACKGROUND

Education in the Yukon is a partnership between government, educators, School Councils/Boards/Committee, parents, students and community. Each partner has an important role to play – to be effective, the partners must collaborate. And while collaboration is a vital component for a high quality education system, autonomy of each partner group is also important. One component of building meaningful partnerships is to recognize that each partner group must have a mandated area of authority and responsibility.

The Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards and Committees (AYSCBC) was formed in the fall of 1999.

LEGISLATION

Under section 121 of the Yukon Education Act, it states:

“School Boards and Councils may form and become members of an Association of School Boards and Councils and may make grants or payments to the association.”

MANDATE

Through its activities, the Association provides services and supports to its members. The focus is on working collaboratively for high quality public education and promoting and supporting the value of locally elected School Councils, Boards and Committees.

The objectives of the Association include:

- To undertake and / or coordinate project initiatives identified as being of a common priority by its membership and disseminate any resulting information.
- To ensure access to training programs on behalf of its members.
- To ensure effective communication between the Association, its members and external contacts.
- To provide expert advice to its members.

AYSCBC can represent membership, as directed, on matters affecting public education in the Yukon.

EXECUTIVE

In accordance with the Bylaws, there are to be up to seven members on the Executive, and where possible at least three are to be from the rural communities. The term of office is three years. Section 3.9 of the Association By-laws specifies that vacancies on the Executive may be filled through by-election or by appointment. AYSCBC tables an annual report to the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

The Association had 16 School Councils as Members in 2010.

Application for membership in the Association may be made by any Yukon School Council or School Board. Such Membership remains in force unless terminated in accordance with section 2.5 of the Association Bylaws.

FUNDING

In February 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Department of Education and the Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards & Committees.

This 3 year agreement, effective April 1, 2009 through January 31, 2012, streamlines the process for AYSCBC membership as well as the terms for funding and reporting.

STAFF

Executive Director services are provided under contract while all Executive Members serve as volunteers.

MEMBER SERVICES
provided by the
Association of School Councils, Boards and Committees

The Association provides services to both its members and those with whom the members work in the following four areas:

⇒ **Enhanced Communication:**

- Considerable time is spent communicating with other groups and individuals. The Association has provided guidance and coordination on issues of common concern that the Minister, the department and other organizations require input on.
- Research is conducted on a number of relevant issues. AYSCBC continues to build a repository of information and resources relevant to councils' roles and responsibilities and ensures this information is accessible, understandable, accurate and meaningful.
- The Association supports networking between councils. This entails maintaining the connection between AYSCBC and each individual council, as well as the connection all councils have with each other for information sharing, decision-making and support.
- Efforts are made to ensure that councils have access to information that is user friendly, through such methods as website, newsletters, and other information resources tailored to school council needs.
- AYSCBC assists during the planning and coordination of conferences/gatherings based on the interests from a school council perspective.
- Affiliations have been made with several other School Council/Board associations in other jurisdictions. This has proved to be a great source of information and resource sharing.

⇒ **Training and Professional Development:**

- The Association plays an active role in training and professional development for School Councils. These have been delivered by the Executive Director and members of the AYSCBC Executive at conferences and to Councils in their communities. When not delivering training, AYSCBC has been active in the coordination of same.
- The Association ensures School Councils are better informed, focused and effective. This contributes to the efficiency and credibility of councils.
- The Association sets standards for their members such as a Code of Conduct. One has been adopted for Executive Members and a Policy re: Code of Conduct has been adopted for all members.
- Through input provided in the planning and organization of conferences and other meetings, these functions are more focused and tailored to the needs of School Councils. Issues can be discussed, debated and voted on. Through membership in the Association, Board/Committee/Councils have a mechanism to collectively vote on issues.
- Through affiliation with other similar associations, increased professional development opportunities exist. This is an important aspect of being able to take on a leadership role in an organization serving others. At times, it may be necessary to hire other expertise to educate councils on trends and policies in education.

⇒ **Autonomy and equality as Partners:**

- As the Association is a member-driven self-governing organization, it does not have competing demands/responsibilities from other programs, departments, initiatives, etc. This helps councils focus their work by being informed and able to be proactive.
- While it is the decision of individual School Councils as to who sits on departmental committees, the Association provides a mechanism for the department and other organizations to coordinate representation from School Councils.
- The Association provides support to school council members sitting on departmental or other Committees.
- The Association will provide support to School Councils in the hiring of administrators.
- The Association can assist with Councils taking on additional powers that they may be unable to do individually without support.
- Tracking of issues of concern can be done so there is a “corporate history” and councils do not burn out by constantly reinventing the wheel. This also allows for more forward movement and resolution of issues.
- AYSCBC can coordinate a policy-setting process allowing members from across the Yukon to present a collective voice on territorial educational issues. This involves providing support for councils to pursue and respond to common issues of concern.
- Members are situated throughout the territory and many feel very remote from the Department of Education. Through ongoing connection with the Association, the voices of those elected by the school community can be ‘amplified’.

⇒ **Staying connected**

AYSCBC has a role as a clearinghouse of information that provides a two-way flow of communication to and from members, as well as many others involved with Yukon education. Communication with current and prospective School Council/Board and Committee members, as well as Department of Education staff, the Minister of Education, Council of Yukon First Nations, First Nation Education Directors, Catholic Education Association of Yukon, Yukon Francophone School Board, school staff and others has been a major undertaking for AYSCBC.

Outside of Yukon, contact has been made and is maintained with many relevant educational organizations and projects, some of which are:

Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB)
Alberta School Councils’ Association (ASCA)
British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)
British Columbia School Trustees’ Association (BCSTA)
Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) and its initiatives:
 Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre
 Health & Learning Knowledge Centre
 Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Centre
Canadian Education Association (CEA)
Council of Early Child Development (CECD)
First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)
First Nations School Association (FNSEA)
Imagination in Education Research Group (IERG)
Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC)
Manitoba School Improvement Program, Inc. (MSIP)
Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA)
People for Education (P4Ed)
Saskatchewan Association of School Councils (SASC)
Society for the Advancement of Excellence in Education (SAEE)

WORKPLAN ACTIVITIES 2011

Provision of services rely, to some extent, on the demand from membership.

Training and Professional Development

- Provide training as requested to meet the needs of new and experienced members
- Take a proactive role in the planning of School Council Conferences and AYSCBC AGMs
- Continue to produce needed training materials
- Meet requests for assistance from Members for support and information, including face-to-face meetings and written reports as desired by Members
- Build up resources and ensure their availability for lending to Members
- Organize and facilitate opportunities for members to meet to table and discuss common issues on an occasional basis. These could be issue-focused or regionally-focused
- Continue to update staff knowledge and experience with web site administration
- Attend learning opportunities provided by other community-based educational organizations in order to maintain requisite level of knowledge and currency in professional development and issues of importance

Communication

- Update the AYSCBC web site on an ongoing basis so it continues to be a valuable source of information and another method of communication to and from AYSCBC
- Ensure the Membership receives all relevant organizational information in a clear concise manner as needed (i.e., Annual Reports, Financial statement, Interim Reports, Workplan, etc)
- Meet all obligations as required by YG Corporate Affairs in order to maintain status as a non-profit society
- Publish information of general or public importance regarding School Councils specifically or education generally
- Maintain contact and respond to queries and disseminate information relevant to members on ongoing basis
- Continue to create and circulate newsletters on a regular basis including posting on AYSCBC web site
- Gather input from members on a variety of issues (on request from others as well as AYSCBC initiated)
- Represent AYSCBC on committees as requested and/or invited
- Actively pursue resolutions to concerns raised and recommendations made during School Council Conferences
- Continue to liaise with organizations in Yukon as well as other jurisdictions with a focus on public education

Research

- Follow up on issues on topics of interest to the work of the Membership
- Undertake ongoing research into studies done in the field of education, to continually build up our knowledge and use of the 'best practices' and success stories of students, schools, and their communities

Evaluation

- Review School Council training needs and topics of interest
- Conduct assessment and evaluation of AYSCBC services during the 2011-2012 school year using the AYSCBC Evaluation Tool. (Previous one was done in 2006)

Recruitment and capacity building

- Continue to actively disseminate information and contact people regarding education committees and School Review Teams that need School Council/community member participation on them
- Continue outreach to non-Members while continuing support to current Members.
- Continue to interest and recruit candidates to participate on the AYSCBC Executive