



ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL
COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Annual General Meeting
April 19, 2013
Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre
Whitehorse, Yukon

Annual Report 2013

AYSCBC Executive Members

Chair

Bob Laking

Vice-Chair

Neil Salvin

Treasurer/Secretary

Chris Bookless

Members at Large

Sandra Henderson

Rick Halladay

Barb Barchen

Ed Krahn

Executive Director

Carol Coote

Association of Yukon School Councils Boards and Committees

2012 Annual General Meeting

Chair's Report

Another year has gone by and education in Yukon and the issues affecting it continue to be the focus of our Association. It's been a busy time and we've participated in a number of initiatives.

Currently the Executive consists of: Bob Laking (Chair), Neil Salvin (Vice Chair), Chris Bookless (Treasurer), Sandra Henderson (Director), Rick Halladay (Director), Barb Barchen (Director) and Ed Krahn (Director). Carol Coote is our Executive Director.

Since our last AGM some significant initiatives have been concluded or are nearing completion.

For many years the two year election cycle and the election timing process have been identified as one of the greatest obstacles to the development of strong and effective councils. This issue has been a topic at almost every meeting we've had with Education Ministers and Department officials for the last number of years. Recent changes to the Education Act have been made to address these problems, with a move to spring elections and a mechanism to address continuity.

The semi-annual conferences are one of the best ways to help members develop skills and we're pleased to play a role in planning and delivering them. Professional development for council members remains a primary focus of Association activity.

Each school year, in the fall and again in the spring, a School Councils Conference has traditionally been 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. Recently, some thought has been given to changing the format of these conferences. One idea is to have a series of regional conferences and still have a central conference once a year. In the fall of 2012 there were two separate one day sessions for school councils were held in Whitehorse. These were held in lieu of the normal two day fall conference. We'd be pleased to receive feedback from our members regarding conference formats.

The Association is represented on the Leadership Advisory Committee by the Executive Director and Chair. As a result of that committee's work, the "Educational Leadership Framework for Yukon Principals and Vice-Principals" and the "Leadership Practices Framework for Yukon School Councils" have been completed and introduced. Work is continuing on the "Educational Leadership Framework for Yukon Teachers". The Teacher Framework should be completed soon and ready for introduction prior to the next school year.

We continue to add content and make other improvements to our website at www.ayscbc.org 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.

Seats continue to be available for school council participants on several committees that deal with Education issues. Association Executives have worked on some and several other council representatives have also served. If you'd like to become involved please let us know. The time spent is well worth it and very much appreciated. We have seen a lot of progress in the last while. Sometimes it is hard to appreciate this when we wish so hard for student success. But bit by bit, change is happening and it is largely because of the contributions made by School Council members. We thank all those that have been able to contribute.

The Association has been supporting the participation of our rural members in the semi annual School Council Conferences for some time. The department provides funds for one member to attend conference and we extend financial support for as many additional members from each rural council that wish 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.

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. There have been some changes at the Department. We have a new Deputy Minister of Education, Ms Hine having moved to another Department. The new Deputy is Ms Val Royle, who previously served on Christ the King Elementary School Council in addition to her professional duties. The Assistant Deputy Minister, Ms Christie Whitley, has announced her departure from the Department. Ms Judith Arnold will be the Acting ADM in the near term. Yukon is fortunate to have enjoyed the services of Ms Hine and Ms Whitley in Education. It has been a pleasure to work with these dedicated individuals and we look forward to continuing those relationships with their successors.

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

AGM 2013 Report from the Executive Director

First off, I'd like to acknowledge and thank all School Councils members for serving their school communities and I extend a special greeting to our 21 AYSCBC Member Councils for supporting this organization and the work we do to support YOU. At this time, all rural School Councils are Members and eight of the Whitehorse ones belong—we have grown by two Members since our last AGM.

Some of the activities we've engaged in over this last year are:

- visiting all communities except Old Crow last September to distribute information and posters about the October 2012 School Council elections and the importance of the work that councils do. I visited schools, First Nation offices, community post offices and stores and all were very supportive of posting the information and this face to face contact encouraged some questions and conversation from several people.
- ensuring that the Recommendations made by delegates at the Spring 2012 School Councils' Conference were passed on to the Minister of Education and the Department. The original letter from AYSCBC and the response from Minister Kent are both posted on the [Correspondence](#) page of our website.
- conducting an [Exit Survey](#) of those who did not put their name forward to run for a School Council seat in October 2012, to provide an avenue for learning from some outgoing members;
- attending many School Council meetings to listen to the discussions, determining issues of common concern and providing information and follow-up whenever possible;
- participating on School Review Teams and doing 'callouts' to School Council members who would also like the opportunity to be involved on a Review Team;
- producing monthly [newsletters](#) which include information about upcoming events, ideas, and references to books and articles of relevance to School Council members and others;
- continually updating the [AYSCBC website](#), posting new events, resources, links, news, conference materials. The site has proven to be a great information and communication tool for the Association, for our Members and many others. We are always open to feedback on what we post and encourage you to let us know about other kinds of information that might be useful for you as we continue to develop resources and contacts.

As has been done for many years, we have been actively involved with the planning and organizing of School Council Conferences and workshops and we are grateful to the many delegates who set aside time to attend these events. The shared learning and networking are an important part of Council member development. By participating in these professional development opportunities, you can increase your knowledge and understanding when making decisions with, and for, your school community. AYSCBC is continuing to provide funding support to our Member Councils from the communities outside Whitehorse to attend the conferences. Last year, five of our rural School Councils drew on this Member benefit.

While we plan ahead, anticipating and working to meet some of the needs of School Councils, we are also responsive to suggestions and ideas that are put forward by our Members.

One example of this is--

Last fall, after receiving a letter from a member of one of the AYSCBC Member Councils, asking if the association would consider providing some funding support for the person to attend a conference in Vancouver, we developed a [policy, guidelines and application process](#) to be applied in such a situation. The request was precedent setting as there was nothing in place, and we recognized the importance of providing support when and where possible for relevant professional development opportunities. We also knew that access to funding would need to be transparent and workable with our Membership and it is now in place.

Our participation on many of the Yukon Education committees continues and we actively solicit interest from School Council members to join these committees when there are vacancies. Some of these are:

- School Growth Planning Advisory*
- Leadership Advisory*
- Student Support Services Advisory (former Special Programs Advisory)*
- Assessment Advisory*
- Attendance Initiative Advisory*
- Administrator Growth Planning Advisory*
- Secondary Programming*
- French Program Review*
- Education Policy Advisory*
- Excellence in Education*
- Innovation Grant Review*

Last fall, Neil one of the Executive Members and I attended the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) Conference in Vancouver. The theme was *'Reconciliation through Education'* and it was a great learning experience. Some of the keynote presentations are available on their [website](#) which we've linked to ours.

I was also able to attend the Rural Education Congress in Saskatoon last month and will be posting some of the presentation materials on our website. One of the strongest messages I took from that event, which had delegates and presenters from across Canada, was from the keynote session with Chief Clarence Louie of the Osoyoos Indian Band. He said: ***"Leadership is NOT a position, it's action!"*** I have shared these words in several meetings I've been in already and think they are ones that ring true for all of us as leaders in our schools and communities.

I look forward to continuing the work of the association, to providing support and information to our Members and others, and to promoting the very important role that all School Councils have in enhancing the lives of all Yukon students.

Respectfully submitted by
Carol Coote, April 19, 2013