



ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL
COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Annual General Meeting
April 20, 2012
Westmark Whitehorse, Yukon

Annual Report 2012

AYSCBC Executive Members

Chair

Bob Laking

Vice-Chair

Neil Salvin

Treasurer/Secretary

Chris Bookless

Members at Large

Sandra Henderson

Rick Halladay

Executive Director

Carol Coote

Association of Yukon School Councils Boards and Committees

2012 Annual General Meeting

Chair's Report

It has been my privilege to serve as Chair of this Association for the past year.

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

Since our last AGM there has been an election in Yukon. As a result of that event we now have a new Minister responsible for Education. We are pleased to welcome the Honourable Scott Kent to that role and wish him well. We look forward to continue working close with him and his department.

The School Councils' Conferences continue to be well attended, and this speaks well of the commitment made by those who have chosen to serve on their local School Council. This fall is election time once again for School Councils. The two year election cycle remains one of the greatest obstacles we have to the development of strong councils. We will continue to work hard through the upcoming election period to encourage participation from interested parents and community members in that process. 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.

Since startup we have been adding content and making 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.

As I reported last year seats have been opened up 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. 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. We have seen a lot of change happen in the last while. Sometimes it is hard to appreciate this when we wish so hard for student success. Bit by bit change is happening and it is largely because of the contributions made by School Council members.

We've been participating on the Leadership Advisory Committee for the last few years. This committee helped develop the Yukon Educational Leadership Program and has also developed the Educational Leadership Framework for Yukon Principals and Vice-Principals document that was introduced at our conference last year. Since then we've been working with our partners on a similar Leadership Framework document for School Council members and we'll be seeking input

at this conference. We know that Professional Development is just as important for School Council members as it is for school administrators and look forward to adding this resource to assist in this regard.

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 first complete cycle of external reviews is now almost complete. Feedback from these is being shared and helps us all to make our schools better. The next cycle will begin in 2012-2013 school year.

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 very hard on every one.

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 who 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 suggestions you may have.

The Association is pleased to host an offsite dinner for participants from councils with Association Membership at this conference, as we have done frequently 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

AGM 2012 Report from the Executive Director

I would like to recognize the 19 School Councils who are now Members of AYSCBC—our newest ones coming ‘on board’ in January this year. This includes ALL rural School Councils and almost half of the urban ones!! Thank you for supporting this organization and the work we do to support YOU.

It has been another busy year.

Last fall and winter, I travelled to several communities to attend School Council meetings, listen to their discussions and concerns, and to answer questions as requested. I have also been to several meetings of some of the Whitehorse School Councils and I always learn from these experiences as it gives me insight and information from the ‘grassroots’.

As in past years, we have been actively involved with the planning and organizing of School Council Conferences. We appreciate the time that delegates give by attending these events. The shared learning and networking are an important part of Council member development and your participation in conference sessions can strengthen your knowledge base when making decisions with and for your school community. AYSCBC is continuing to provide funding support to rural Member Councils, as needed, to attend the conferences.

Following the Spring and Fall 2011 conferences, the Recommendations that were made and supported by the general assembly were recorded by the Association and sent on to the Minister. Letters of response were received and are posted on the [Correspondence page of the AYSCBC website](#).

We have also posted any of the previous [conferences materials](#) that are available to us.

Updating and maintaining our website is an ongoing activity, a great information and communication tool for the Association and for our Members and beyond. We encourage feedback on what is posted and what other information might be useful for you as we continue to develop resources and contacts.

I have been working with Judy Arnold on School Reviews, both as a Review Team member as well as in doing outreach to find other School Council members/parents to consider being a member of a Review Teams.

Last fall, I attended the Association of Alaska School Boards conference **“Relevance, Relationships, Results”** held in Anchorage Nov 3-6. Many will remember that a year ago at the School Councils’ Spring 2011 Conference, we had 2 of the AASB staff--Timi Tullis and Lori Klein--as our guest speakers.

It was clear that there is a sincere interest in what we are doing here in Yukon education as well as an eager sharing of good practices, policies, and more about what is happening in Alaska.

I was also fortunate to be able to attend the BC Ministry of Education/FNESC (First Nation Education Steering Committee) Conference in Vancouver, **“Students First—Dignity, Diversity and Well-Being”** Nov 24-26th. I found many sessions were relevant and informative for the work we do.

We undertook an Evaluation of AYSCBC operations and services last fall and winter and a summary of the input received has been compiled. We extend our thanks to those School Councils and the Executive Members who participated. This report will be presented at the AGM and will provide some direction for our future work.

We continue to participate on many of the Yukon Education committees as well as finding others who are interested in doing so:

- School Growth Planning Advisory*
- Leadership Advisory*
- Special Programs Advisory*
- Administrator Growth Planning Advisory*
- Secondary Programming*
- French Program Review*
- Education Policy Advisory*
- Early Childhood Transition*
- Excellence in Education*

In closing, I'd like to shine a light on the upcoming School Council elections taking place on October 1st, 2012. I encourage members to begin talking about the important role that School Councils serve in Yukon education and the contribution that you make to your school community. Encourage others to think about becoming involved and learning more. Let's ensure that all School Councils have a full team of community members working together to support school and student success.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Coote