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# BCPVPA election for Directors

**Nominations are now open.  
Seven Directors to be elected**

**Nominations are now being accepted for the BCPVPA election.** A nomination form is available here: <http://bit.ly/1oFNgie>. BCPVPA members will elect six Directors to two-year terms and one Director to a one-year term (to complete the one-year term created when Gordon Li was seconded to the Ministry of Education and resigned from the Board of Directors). Directors whose terms are ending on June 30 are Heidi Grant (Nechako Lakes); Brett Johnson (Greater Victoria); Bryan Johnson (Sooke); Lee Karpenko (Prince George); Carol-Ann Leidloff (Kootenay Lakes); and Brian Leonard (Coquitlam). Nominations close May 6 and candidates will speak at the May 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter Council. An election issue of eNews will be published on May 20. The election will take place by electronic ballot from June 7 to 9. Results will be published in eNews on June 10.

## Update: Pension Plan Design Changes

**The recommended option for pension plan design for implementation as of January 2018 is:**

That the Teachers' Pension Plan design change for the pension formula include:

1. delinking from the Canada Pension Plan's Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE)
2. a single accrual rate of 1.85% be applied to Pensionable Service
3. an Early-retirement Reduction Factor of 4.5% at age 61
4. removal of the 35-year Pensionable Service cap
5. an unreduced pension for those with 35 years of Contributory Service.

The Plan Member Partner (BCTF) and the Plan Employer Partner (BC Government) will draft language that will implement this option. This will be presented to the Teachers' Pension Board of Trustees to direct Teachers' Pension Plan (TPP) in its implementation. Along the way, there will be several levels of checking compliance to pension regulations and tax rules.

**There will be no changes in pension calculations for current service up to and including December 31, 2017. The annual Member's Benefit Statements (MBS) from TPP, sent to members in May-June will not show any change of service until a full year of service in the new plan has occurred. That is, the new service will be reflected in the MBS issued in May of 2019 for the first full year in the new plan, 2018.**

Download more about the Plan Partner recommendation

<http://bit.ly/1UZrcOb>

## 2016 BCPVPA Membership Survey

Survey opens Monday, April 18 • Please complete as soon as possible

*Guiding the Board & staff in the development of the BCPVPA's strategic plan  
& the Association's programs for members*

The BCPVPA has commissioned *Directions Education Policy Research Group* to conduct a second membership survey (the first was conducted in 2013). It is our intention to survey the membership every three years to track changes and the conditions of work for principals and vice-principals.

The information provided will assist us in better supporting the membership and in advocating for members with the Ministry of Education, school boards, and the public. The information gathered in the 2013 survey helped to persuade the Ministry to form a leadership development working group to consider how to support leaders and address recruitment and retention issues. The responses also helped the Association advance its case for improved compensation.

*Directions* will aggregate the information provided by members in a report to the BCPVPA. The report will contain no information that would enable the BCPVPA to identify an individual. However, members will be able to enter a contest and three prizes will be awarded: 1) original cartoon drawn by former *Vancouver Province* cartoonist Bob Krieger (value \$500); 2) a \$50 Chapters gift card; and 3) a copy of *The Thinking Classroom* by Garfield Gini-Newman and Roland Case.

The survey will take approximately 40 minutes to complete. The survey will open April 18 and remain open through Sunday, May 22.

### You will receive an email with a link to your survey

On Monday, April 18 every BCPVPA member will receive an email from **Directions Evidence and Policy Research Group** ([obartosh@directions-eprg.ca](mailto:obartosh@directions-eprg.ca)) with information about the survey and a unique, secure link to your survey. If you have questions about the survey, contact Richard Williams ([rwilliams@bcvpva.bc.ca](mailto:rwilliams@bcvpva.bc.ca))

### Mental Health

Ministry of Children/Family Development/Children in Care  
Compensation & Performance

## BCPVPA Issues Forum

May 13 (8:30 am to 3 pm) Richmond

*Network & learn*

Registration <http://bit.ly/1SD7tBy> • Free for all BCPVPA members (lunch included)

### Leadership opportunities continues next 2 pages

**Comox** invites applications for Superintendent. The district is located on the traditional lands of the K'omoks First Nations and extends to 7 different communities from Black Creek in the north through Courtenay/Comox to Hornby and Denman Islands and Fanny Bay in the south. Apply by 11 pm, April 8. <http://bit.ly/1QHe6Se>

**Ministry of Education** invites applications for Chief Educator. Reporting to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Learning Division, the Chief Educator is responsible for leading BC's education transformation to personalized learning. 'This position is a subject matter and technical expert for the province who leads the education transformation agenda on behalf of government. The Chief Educator provides education expertise by translating the transformation vision to goals and strategies, and supporting this change through leadership and strong sector relationships. International experience working with education leaders would be an asset.' Apply by April 12. <http://bit.ly/1SFDual>

**Langley** invites applications for the position of Assistant Superintendent. Langley is BC's seventh largest school district and has 43 schools. The new Assistant Superintendent will model the core values of integrity, excellence, courage, and community. The ideal candidate will provide inspirational and strategic leadership to students, staff, parents and the community. Apply by 4 pm, April 14. <http://bit.ly/1PKjR2T>

**Arrow Lakes** invites applications for Principal, Lucerne School, a K-12 school in New Denver. "We're looking for an enthusiastic and creative leader and have a great team of teachers, support staff, parents, students, and community for you to work alongside." Applications are due by 12 noon, April 15. <http://bit.ly/1WcvxdD>

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**Sea to Sky** invites applications for Director of Instruction — Learning Services, responsible for leading special education and instructional excellence in support of the district's *Pathways to Learning Education Plan*. The successful candidate will be 'responsible for Literacy and Early Learning programs as well overseeing district itinerant staff and activities. You will plan and manage budgets, identify opportunities for growth and change while fostering a positive respectful workplace focused on student learning. Your knowledge of innovative educational practices, collaborative models of support, and your passion and vision for how students may achieve their own unique potential will serve you well. You will embrace our geographic and community diversity and respect and honor the Aboriginal cultures and relationships of our school district.' Applications are due by 4 pm, April 22. <http://bit.ly/1Sgtsth>

### School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky)



## Director of Instruction – Learning Services

**An exciting opportunity for a dynamic leader:** Nestled in the recreation-rich Sea to Sky corridor, our school district serves 4,700 students. We are honored to be learning within a number of culturally vibrant communities, encompassing Squamish, Whistler, D'Arcy, Pemberton, and on the traditional territories of

the Squamish and Lower St'at'imx First Nations. As the **Director of Instruction – Learning Services**, you are a member of the District Management Team and have responsibility for leading special education and instructional excellence in support of SD48's Pathways to Learning Education Plan. You are responsible for Literacy and Early Learning programs as well overseeing district itinerant staff and activities. You will plan and manage budgets, identify opportunities for growth and change while fostering a positive respectful workplace focused on student learning. Your knowledge of innovative educational practices, collaborative models of support, and your passion and vision for how students may achieve their own unique potential will serve you well. You will embrace our geographic and community diversity and respect and honor the Aboriginal cultures and relationships of our school district. Your ability to build positive, sustaining relationships with staff, students, parents and community partners who share your vision of an inclusive and invigorating learning culture for our students is essential.

Preference will be given to candidates with a Master's Degree in Special Education (or equivalent). You must have a minimum of five years school or district level administrative experience, a successful portfolio of experiences gained through working in a variety of schools (elementary and secondary), and have demonstrated experience leading initiatives, including education technologies, at a school or district level.

Complete application packages are due by **4 pm on Friday, April 22**. We thank all applicants for applying; however, only those applicants shortlisted will be contacted. The complete posting is here <http://bit.ly/1Sgtsth>



## Principal, Lanzhou, China

Lanzhou Oriental Canada Secondary School (LOCSS) is a BC Global Education Offshore School in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of operation. We teach the BC Graduation Curriculum (Grades 10-12). LOCSS is located at the heart of China, on the shores of the Yellow River. Lanzhou is both historical and modern. This June our first Graduation Class of 44 students will receive their BC Dogwood Certificates. Our students have already been offered early admission to major Canadian universities.

We enrol 195 students in Grades 10-12 and are housed in a host school, which is considered to be one of the finest in Northwest China. In 2017, we will move into a new building within the school campus. We are annually Inspected and Certified by the BC Ministry of Education. We teach the BC Curriculum exclusively. English is the language of instruction and the language of LOCSS. The Principal and teachers are required to maintain a BC Certificate of Qualification.

**We are seeking a Principal** to begin work mid-August for the 2016-17 school year and hopefully beyond. The successful candidate will work collaboratively with the staff to lead and shape our school and student success. Requirements include: successful school-based leadership in BC as a principal or VP; a readiness to lead the implementation of the new BC Curriculum; experience leading teachers to create a positive, vibrant and challenging learning environment; and, an ability to work closely and effectively with all staff. Experience at an overseas international school is desirable, but not essential. LOCSS operates from early September to the end of June (with a multi-week January break). The contract includes a competitive salary, two annual return airfares to Canada, an extensive mid-term break in January, free apartment, and other attractive benefits. A sense of humour and a positive outlook are essential. To apply, email your resume asap, with supporting documents, and references to Rick Erickson, LOCSS BC Offshore Program Consultant, [wrickerrickson@gmail.com](mailto:wrickerrickson@gmail.com)

For information about the school visit [www.LOCSS.com/en/](http://www.LOCSS.com/en/) or email Rick Erickson (as above).

## Leadership opportunities from previous page

**Richmond** invites applications for Director of International Programs. The District's International Program has been operating for more than 15 years. The Program consists of short-term and long-term students, a student support program, an offshore project in China, as well as Professional Services which are offered in Richmond and offshore. Applications are due by 4 pm, April 25. <http://bit.ly/1JwOE0g>

**Surrey** invites applications for Assistant Superintendent. The ideal candidate will have a broad range of experience that encompasses teaching and administrative roles in a school district such as principal, district principal, director, or assistant superintendent. <http://bit.ly/1R6VnzU>

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**Lanzhou** Oriental Canada Secondary School (LOCSS) invites applications Principal, to begin work mid-August for the 2016-17 school year and hopefully beyond. The successful candidate will work collaboratively with the staff to lead and shape our school and student success. The contract includes a competitive salary, two annual return airfares to Canada, an extensive mid-term break in January, free apartment, and other attractive benefits. Email Rick Erickon [wrickerrickson@gmail.com](mailto:wrickerrickson@gmail.com)

## Supporting childhood cancer research



Since 1986 BC Children's Hospital Foundation's signature running event, ChildRun, has raised more than \$11 million to support childhood cancer research and treatment at BC Children's Hospital. This year, the foundation has partnered with RBC for *RBC Run for the Kids*, Sunday, June 5. Runners and walkers of all ages and abilities will participate in either a scenic five-kilometre route or the 2 km Fun Run around Queen Elizabeth Park, and have access to a post-run carnival celebration. Email [rbcfrtk@bcchf.ca](mailto:rbcfrtk@bcchf.ca) to request promotional posters and brochures. Visit [www.bcchf.ca/rbcrun](http://www.bcchf.ca/rbcrun) to register your school.

## Announcing the Census of Population May 2016



## How close to 40 million?

The 2016 Census will take place in May 2016

### Education resources include:

- 2016 Census Teacher's Kit
- the 2016 Census Adult Education Kit
- translations of the census questions in 11 Aboriginal languages

<http://bit.ly/1U5kLb6>

Registration for the **2016 BCPVPA Short Course** is filling up quickly. If you are planning to attend, be sure to register before space is gone.

**39<sup>th</sup> annual**

Mark your calendar • **July 4 to 8**

## Short Course 2016

Gain the knowledge, understanding, and connections you need to enhance your school leadership journey.

Registration <http://bit.ly/21vEqTE>

### Upcoming events

**L**earning Forward BC's next network dinner will take place April 28 from 4 to 6:30 pm at Burnaby Central Secondary. *Connecting with Innovative Practices that Transform the Student Learning Experience: Stories that Support the Core Competencies* will allow participants 'to delve deep into moving forward with the re-designed curriculum.' The \$40 cost includes a light dinner. Information/registration: <http://www.learningforwardbc.ca>

**T**he Networks of Inquiry and Innovation are sponsoring a two-day symposium **to explore the ways in which the spiral of inquiry is opening possibilities for creativity and engagement.** *Purpose, Passion and Persistence: Making it Real* will take place at the Westin Wall Centre in Richmond, May 13-14. Registration is \$350 including GST. Speakers include Kaleb Child, Terry Taylor, and Helen Timperley. There will be 10 school presentations. Information: <http://bit.ly/1SxDiNc>

**C**reating the Future: *Partnerships for Inclusive Learning* will take place at UBC, August 22-24. The conference is designed to facilitate strategic approaches to inclusion and belonging for all students in BC's schools. Discussion areas include: Universal Design for Learning (Dr. Pat Miranda); Positive Behaviour Supports (Dr. Brenda Fossett); Transition (Dr. Paul Malette); Literacy (Vicki Rothstein); and Self Regulated Learning (Dr. Nancy Perry & Dr. Deborah Butler). <http://www.bcinclusivelearning.com>

## Short, timely updates

**click** to join the BCPVPA's more than 3190 followers on Twitter

## President Kevin Reimer reflects on the personal and unique aspects of a school community



Earlier this week I emailed to all BCPVPA members a short statement about the Fraser Institute ranking of elementary schools. I want to thank the many members who wrote to share their understandings and perspectives about the rankings. A couple of members took issue with aspects of the statement, but overall the reaction was positive. In all instances — praise or criticism — I welcome and value your feedback.

As I drafted the general statement which was sent to members, I had time to reflect to 2009 when my reactions to the rankings were much more personal as they related to my school community. As Principal of the school, I felt obligated to share my concerns about the Institute's rankings and I wrote a letter to the local newspaper, which was published. An edited version appears below:

bcpvpa

2015 — 2016  
Board of Directors

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Directors

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Brian Leonard (Coquitlam)  
[bleonard@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:bleonard@sd43.bc.ca)

*As advocates of public education, parents and community members have the right to know if their schools are doing a good job. The Fraser Institute annually asks that question and then serves to rank schools based on the Foundation Skills Assessment results. According to the Institute's findings Arden Elementary ranked 896 out of 952 elementary schools in the province. As the Principal of Arden Elementary, our ranking is of serious concern to me and raises questions for our school community.*

*As an educator I can tell you that there is seemingly no end to the amount of research on what makes an effective school. From my experience, I believe wholeheartedly that a quality school must have strong staff members who have high expectations coupled with the belief that all children can learn. Good schools have caring, compassionate cultures, are well-organized and exude an environment that is conducive to learning. If the Fraser Institute is asking what constitutes a good school then from my perspective the question has an even more personal focus. For me, the question is, 'Is Arden Elementary School a good school?'*

*To answer that question it is important to look at what goes on inside of Arden Elementary. This past fall, Arden was one of only seven schools in the province to be awarded a Universal Design for Learning grant. To date, our grant has been used to invest in technologies that support our most vulnerable learners and through our work together we have several teachers who now provide significant leadership to teachers throughout the province.*

*This year we established Arden Boost, a small group intervention program targeting students who could benefit from small-group assistance yet do not qualify for regular learning assistance.*

*Over the past two years, Arden has established an intermediate Boys Book*

*Club to help encourage reading and boost literacy skills.*

*The school's Pythagoras Club provides enrichment for intermediate students wanting to challenge their math skills.*

*Arden established a Journalism program where students are learning about photography and desktop publishing as they produce a school yearbook.*

*As the result of an extensive school safety survey last year, our staff has implemented the Six Pillars of Character program to promote character education.*

*Through the leadership of our Curriculum Support Teacher, Arden has hosted a Literacy night, Family Math night, and a Teddy Bear Night where primary students return to school in their pyjamas and with their stuffies to be read to by a series of guest readers.*

*Our intermediate teachers are part of a Professional Partnership group whose focus is to improve the writing skills of our students.*

*In the past two weeks our school has participated in the Jump Rope for Heart program and raised over \$5000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.*

*Our ranking within the Fraser Institutes' perspective ranking raises difficult questions for us to which the answers are not immediately apparent. While we have challenges ahead, I am thankful that I am part of a cohesive school community with strong teachers, caring staff members, supportive parents and wonderful children.*

As then, I continue to believe that the Fraser Institute rankings do a disservice to our excellent public education system. The rankings promote misunderstanding and fail to reflect the unique learning cultures that are built in every school. The best way for parents to know a school is to participate in its rich and varied life ... and I know your doors are open.

*Have a great weekend, Kevin*

## Financial Resource

### *Talk With Our Kids About Money Day*

April 20<sup>th</sup> is *Talk With Our Kids About Money Day*. This is a new initiative in BC that features fully developed websites for both educators and parents. Last year, 2020 schools and 400,000 students participated in *Talk With Our Kids About Money Day* across Canada. Visit <http://bit.ly/1M45Rjo> (a short registration is required) for free, teacher-developed, non-commercial, age-appropriate lesson plans and ideas, such as: **Science:** *How can we save money and help the environment?*; **Math:** *How do you balance a personal budget?*; and **Health Education:** *Compare and contrast a weekly menu: eating out versus homemade food.*

**Share your best practices in financial education:** To share best practices in financial education contact Kumi Abercrombie, BC Coordinator [Kabercrombie@cfee.org](mailto:Kabercrombie@cfee.org) or call 604-839-2072.