

As a Trustee, you have an important voice in the public school system. Make a difference for First Nations students and help improve the educational success of all learners!

Thinking of Becoming a School Board Trustee?

Apply to run for Trustee by
September 9, 2022

Calendar

Jan. 1 – Sept. 16, 2022

Election period begins. Fill out your nomination papers, obtain eligible signatures, and submit your nomination papers to the local chief election officer.

Sept. 9, 2022

Deadline for filing your nomination papers and forms naming your financial agent with the local chief election officer.

Oct. 15, 2022

Voting Day across BC.

For more information

BC School Trustees Association

bcsta.org/resources-and-services/trustee-elections/

Elections BC

elections.bc.ca

Please note that this document is not legal advice. For official information regarding local government election laws and policies please see the BC Local Government Act, the BC Community Charter, the General Local Elections section of the Government of BC website, the ElectionsBC website, and the Elections section of your local school district's website. FNEsc does not endorse or financially support specific candidates, parties, or platforms.



www.fnesc.ca/trustee

First Nations Education Steering Committee
113-100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2
info@fnesc.ca 1-877-422-3672

An important role, and a meaningful voice...

Stepping up for students

School Trustee elections will take place across BC in the fall of 2022. This opportunity is only available once every four years. Send in your nomination papers by September 9, 2022. Find nomination papers at <https://bit.ly/3m0xQsu>.

Trustees have a meaningful voice in the public education system that can make a difference for First Nations students and improve the educational success of all learners.

What does a Trustee do?

Trustees participate in important decisions on issues that directly impact student learning. Examples include budget approval, school and district planning, transportation, and educational programming.

Who is eligible to run for Trustee?

To be eligible to run for Trustee you must:

- be 18 years of age or older on general voting day;
- be a Canadian citizen; and
- be a BC resident for at least 6 months before filing nomination documents.

Who is not eligible to run for Trustee?

Those ineligible to run for Trustee include:

- those who have broken specific laws while running for office and/or holding office;
- judges in the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, or Provincial Court; and
- municipal government employees.

Do I need to be a parent?

No. Public education is everyone's responsibility and a quality public education system is beneficial for all.

Is it competitive?

In a few districts, Trustee elections are very competitive. In other districts, where there are fewer candidates, some candidates are elected by acclamation (no one else runs, so the candidate is automatically elected). Encourage your friends and family to come out and vote. If you decide to run a campaign, consult BC's General Local Election website (<https://bit.ly/3tC556l>) for campaign rules.

What is a Financial Agent?

A Financial Agent is someone who will vouch for your campaign spending, even if you did not spend any money. Many candidates ask a friend or family member to volunteer to be their Financial Agent. If you are planning on spending money and receiving donations, open a bank account that will only be used for your campaign.

Are there supports?

School districts often offer orientation to help new Trustees learn their roles. The BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) offers ongoing support including an annual Trustee Academy and professional development workshops during the BCSTA Annual General Meeting.

Is there compensation?

Yes, School Trustees receive a stipend that is determined by each local board of education. In the 2020/21 school year, the annual stipend received by individual BC School Trustees ranged from \$2,850 to \$54,013, with an average stipend of approximately \$18,050.

"Having sat as a trustee, vice chair, chair and now co-chair on my board for nineteen years I cannot stress enough how very important it is to run for the local school board. When you run, you have an opportunity to talk about what works and does not work for Indigenous students. If successful in your bid, you also have the opportunity to educate not only your local board but others across the province on issues related to rural/urban education, Indigenous education, reconciliation, etc. Please join the small number of us Indigenous trustees in the province to ensure better outcomes for our students."

*Valerie Adrian
St'at'imc Nation (Xwisten)
Co-chair, School District #74 (Gold Trail)*



"One of the best decisions I ever made was to become involved in public education by running for a trustee position in my district seventeen years ago. It has been a rewarding experience and I feel I am making an impact for the education of all children in BC, but particularly Aboriginal children."

*Gloria Jackson
Lhtako Dene Member
Aboriginal Education Council Trustee
Representative, School District #28 (Quesnel)
Former Board of Director Member, BCSTA*



Over 68,000 students in BC public schools self-identify as Indigenous. As a Trustee, you can work to improve student achievement and graduation rates.