



Report to IAPCHE
Educational Consultation
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Seattle, Washington
Henry Contant, Executive Director
Society of Christian Schools in BC

Who are we?

The **Society of Christian Schools in BC** (SCSBC) is an organization of Christian school communities. Our first Christian school was established in BC in 1949. Today SCSBC is a community of 45 Christian schools including 20 High Schools, with over 10,000 students (Pre-School - Grade 12) and 1000 teachers and support staff. It works in close partnership with two other organizations that serve these schools, namely the Christian Teachers Association of BC (CTABC) and the Christian Principal's Association of BC (CPABC). SCSBC and its member schools have established many global partnerships.

The SCSBC has always presented itself as two things: a service organization and a community.

1. As a community we seek to do collectively what no school need do individually, often using the gifts of the parts of the body to serve and encourage the whole.
2. As a service organization we provide services to our member schools and others in the areas of Curriculum and Instruction, School Leadership, Governance, International Education Programs, Financial Stewardship, Community Building, Promotion & Development, and Government Relations.

SCSBC International Education Program

Recognizing that we live in a world that is becoming increasingly smaller through globalization, the SCSBC has developed an International Student Program in which students outside of Canada may have an opportunity to study in a Christian School in BC. It is our prayer and goal that the enrolment of students from a variety of cultures will enrich SCSBC school communities and that together we will develop a global perspective that celebrates the diversity of the body of Christ.

To that end, for the past 6 years the SCSBC has contracted the services of an International Education Coordinator, whose role is to support member schools in the development of their own International Student Programs. Support is given to schools in the development of sound policies and procedures to support an International Student program; recruitment and placement of international students, development of a credible, supportive 'Home stay' program'; support for International Student Coordinators; in-service training and workshops for staff and parents on cross-cultural issues and having international students in your classroom. SCSBC is also in the process of formalizing a network of ELL teachers to develop and review suitable ESL resource materials to further support the program.

A recent (Feb. 2008) conference- **Mosaic 2008: Multiculturalism and Community in Independent Schools** was our first SCSBC conference devoted exclusively for International Student Program Coordinators, ELL Coordinators & Instructors, Academic Advisors, and School Principals. It brought together educators from across North America. Conference topics included:

- Building exclusive communities within our classrooms; addressing prejudices and blind spots
- Why international students? Setting a vision for international education
- Setting up an efficient and effective international student program
- Culture transition and the effect it has on youth; the effect of culture on the learning context in the classroom
- ELL support for the classroom teacher; ELL assessment and program delivery methods
- Ensuring that graduation program requirements are met for international students in BC
- Encouraging and equipping home stay parents
- Working effectively with agents
- Risks and Rewards; Legal Issues surrounding international student programs

A Summary of some SCSBC Global School partnerships

- **Vernon Christian School and Eagle Christian School: Seoul, South Korea**

Vernon Christian School and Eagle Christian School have partnered together so that for the past few years the grade 10 students of Eagle Christian, spend their grade 10 year in British Columbia, at Vernon Christian. This partnership is growing with several spin-off partnerships.

- **Bridging Cultures: Working with Christian Schools in Honduras**

For the past 14+ years the SCSBC and the CTABC have partnered to support schools in Honduras. For the past six years SCSBC and CTABC have co-sponsored a team of educators from BC to work among the Christian Schools in Honduras, and participate/sponsor a Christian Teachers Conference in Honduras. Another team of educators will be sent in July 2008.

- **Kabala, Sierra Leone and Fraser Valley Christian High / Surrey Chr. School**

In April 2005 Fraser Valley Christian High School and Surrey Christian School partnered to build and sustain a Christian School in Kabala, Sierra Leone. I believe this joint partnership between a Christian School community in Canada and one in West Africa offers an excellent model that is worth replicating. (Read the report from Dennis deGroot, principal at Fraser Valley Christian High School that summarizes this compelling venture).

- **Gondolikhethwa Chr. School, South Africa and Langley Christian School**

Langley Christian School has developed a 'sister' relationship with this school. The partnership has grown to the point that exchanges between staff and students from both schools are occurring. (Peter Van Huizen's CTABC report summarizes this emerging long-term partnership.)

- **Several Short Term Mission Trips**

Many SCSBC High Schools have organized short term missions trips to a number of countries
E.g. White Rock Christian Academy- Thailand
Carver Christian High School- Costa Rica
Pacific Christian School- Mexico

- **Partnerships with “Sister Schools”**

Some SCSBC Schools have developed “sister” school relationships in which international students from a particular school spend a period of time (one month – one year) studying in one of our schools.

E.g. Pacific Christian School- Sendai, Japan
 Abbotsford Christian School- South Korea
 White Rock Christian Academy- Japan

- **SCSBC and Christian Parent-Controlled Schools of Australia**

SCSBC and CPCS (Australia) have had a growing relationship since 1995. Henry & Jan Contant will return to Australia this summer to participate in the “Over the Top” Northern Territories Christian School Association Conference in Darwin. Australian delegates have been frequent attendees at a number of SCSBC conferences over the years.

SCSBC Publications being translated:

- SCSBC has translated the popular booklet “*For the Love of the Child*” into **Korean**. A **Chinese** and **Russian** translation is currently underway. Visit the SCSBC website www.scsbc.ca for more details.
- The resource handbook: *Good Teaching Comes from the Inside* has been translated into Russian (a joint venture with ACSI)

SCSBC Resources that have broad appeal among the Christian educators in the broader global Christian School community

See SCSBC Website: www.scsbc.ca for a detailed description of each resource.

- **Educating Towards Wisdom**
- **Educating with Heart & Mind**
- **Good Teaching Comes from the Inside**
- **Serving All Children Well**

SCSBC Staff 2007/08 School Year

Executive Director:	Henry Contant
Director of Curriculum & Instruction (Pre-K-5)	Joanne den Boer
Director of Curriculum & Instruction (Gr. 6-12)	Bill deJager
International Education Programs:	Marlene Bylenga
Director of Finance	John Vegt
Development & Community Relations	Gerry Ebbers
Administrative Assistant:	Jean DeVries
Communications & Publications:	Carol Van Muyen
Secretary / Curriculum Librarian:	Sheila Burkinshaw