



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Public school employers elect new Chair

VANCOUVER – School trustees from the province's 60 public boards of education have elected Melanie Joy, a trustee in School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake), as Chair of the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA).

Representatives from the 60 boards attending the association's annual general meeting in Vancouver opted for a change in leadership, with Joy winning a close vote over long time Chair Ron Christensen of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain).

"I appreciate the confidence shown in me by trustees and was honoured to be nominated from the floor," said Joy. "I determined that the time was right, both for me and for the association. I'm also very pleased that Ron will continue on the Board as a Director. His experience and insight will be a valuable resource for us as we face the challenges ahead."

In addition to Joy as Chair, trustees also re-elected Alan Chell of School District No. 19 (Revelstoke) as Vice-Chair. Joining Christensen are returning Directors Ken Denike, SD 39 Vancouver; Eve Flynn, SD 69 Qualicum; Michel Saab, SD 83 North Okanagan-Shuswap; Silas White, SD 46 Sunshine Coast; Pete Williams, SD 64 Gulf Islands; and Sheryl Yaremco, SD 54 Bulkley Valley.

"We are preparing to enter collective bargaining with the BC Teachers' Federation, which could commence as early as March, and my approach as Chair will be informed by my most important responsibility as a parent with three children in the public education system," said Joy. "We have a strong and stable board — the members of the Board haven't changed, just the roles — and we look forward to building on the work we have accomplished together."

"The K-12 public education system is facing many critical human resource and labour relations issues in addition to bargaining with the BCTF and, as I enter my fourth year on the BCPSEA Board, I am looking forward to both the opportunities and the challenges ahead," said Joy. "We have one of the best public education systems in the world, and we want to ensure that our human resource practices facilitate innovation and positive workplace and learning cultures."

BCPSEA, named one of BC's top 55 employers in 2010, is the employers' association and accredited bargaining agent for the province's 60 public boards of education. The association provides a full range of human resource services with a focus on the development, coordination, and facilitation of human resources best practices.

– 30 –

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