

BCPVPA

# A Welcome from the President

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2024-2026 President

## Welcome Back: This Season, the Possibilities are Endless!

Well, it seems the evenings are getting a bit shorter, the mornings a bit cooler, and our minds are turning to welcome back assemblies, new staff onboarding, class lists, school budgets, and facility fix-ups. I want to welcome everyone back to what is already shaping up to be a brilliant year. I hope you have managed to spend these past weeks rejuvenating in the way that best suits you, whether it is spending the dog days of summer on the beaches, hiking in the trails, reconnecting with family and friends, travelling the world, pursuing professional development, or digging in the garden. I hope you have had time to catch your breath, reflect on the past year, and that you are returning to your schools replenished and ready to embrace the possibilities.

The first days back always carry a unique energy, equal parts anticipation and reflection. Hallways begin to fill with the familiar sounds of laughter and chatter; often, they feel messy, and one wonders how we are ever going to be ready for the BIG DAY... and then we are! Teachers are busily transforming classrooms into welcoming spaces. New faces join our teams and communities. And, as leaders, we experience a blend of excitement and responsibility as we prepare to set the tone for the year ahead.



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  @bcpvpapresident

This year, more than ever, our work matters. We know the needs of our students and staff are increasingly complex. Many of us are navigating shifting expectations, limited resources, and the ongoing impacts of both global and local events. And, in these challenges, there is also opportunity— we have a chance to reaffirm the values that guide us, to strengthen the relationships that sustain us, and to reimagine what is possible for our schools and for public education in British Columbia.

Looking ahead, our Association remains committed to supporting you in this important work. Leadership can feel isolating at times, but you are never alone in your role. The BCPVPA is here to advocate for your needs, to amplify your voice, and to ensure that you have access to the resources, professional learning, and networks that will help you thrive.

This year, you will see continued progress on our key priorities:

- **Leadership Development:** We will build on our successful Foundations for New School Leaders program, expand coaching and mentorship opportunities, and champion professional learning tailored to your evolving context.
- **Member Health and Well-being:** We recognize the toll this work can take. Supporting your mental health, work-life balance, and personal growth remains a cornerstone of our mission.
- **Employment Equity and Inclusion:** We will continue to support and advance fairness in your employment relationships, and belonging across the system, ensuring that every leader – and everyone in our school communities – feels seen, valued, and supported.
- **A Champion for Diversity and Cultural Competency:** We will continue to learn and unlearn alongside our members, and to weave the principles of equity throughout our work and our programming.

- **A Respected Voice for Public Education:**

Through our advocacy with government, partners, and communities, we will keep elevating the vital role that Principals and Vice-Principals play in shaping the future of public education in this province.

I encourage you, in these early weeks, to take time to reflect on your own purpose. Why did you choose this path? What is the impact you hope to have on the students and staff in your care? When the days inevitably become long and the pressures mount, it is this sense of purpose that will ground you.

I also want to remind you of the importance of connection. No one does this work alone—and none of us should feel we have to. I have been fortunate to connect with so many of you in your respective districts, or to meet at Foundations for New School Leaders, the Connecting Leaders Conference, and our other member events. These encounters always serve to remind me that connection to one another is what we need in our work. Reach out to your colleagues in your district and across the province. Share ideas, challenges, and celebrations. Together, we are stronger, more resilient, and more innovative.

Finally, as you set goals for the year ahead, I invite you to embrace possibility. In every challenge, there is an opportunity to learn, to grow, and to lead with courage. As school leaders, you have the power to create environments where students feel safe, inspired, and empowered to achieve their potential. You shape culture, nurture talent, and model the values of empathy, integrity, and curiosity.

Thank you for the work you do each day, work that is often unseen but never unimportant. Thank you for showing up with heart, with hope, and with a steadfast commitment to making a difference. On behalf of the BCPVPA Board of Directors and staff, I wish you a year of meaningful progress, joyful moments, and the knowledge that you are making a lasting impact.

Welcome back. Let's make this year one of purpose, connection, and possibility.