

“Can I give you a piece of advice?”

We have all heard that phrase at some point in our careers. Perhaps less a question than a statement, as you are definitely enroute to receiving that guidance. In some situations, we absorb the counsel, give thanks, and move on. But in other circumstances, that advice can be pivotal, profound, and transformative. You may be hearing an informed perspective that is miles distant from your own. You may be receiving the missing puzzle piece that will let you complete a beautiful scene.

For the BCPVPA Board of Directors, the member voice that is generated by advisory committees is critical in adding layers of knowledge to support the Board's ongoing and complex decision making. Each committee is comprised of members who bring their distinctive context, understanding, and background to each

meeting. Those members come to this work with an interest in the unique role of their chosen committee, in learning and connecting with other members, and in gaining a clearer understanding of the provincial scope of our education system.

The members who apply for these committee roles are not homogenous. We receive applications from first-year Vice-Principals, and from seasoned Principals; from urban metro members and from those leading in rural and remote communities. Applicants represent a huge range of contexts and personal identities, and the resulting committees bring together individuals whose professional spheres may not have overlapped in any other circumstances.

And that is quite possibly the superpower of an advisory committee.





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Advisory Committees

The BCPVPA's Advisory Committees have evolved as a reflection of member need. A Contract Advisory Committee was originally struck when there was no provincial compensation framework, and there were wide disparities in compensation around the province. In the 2025-2026 school year, with the guidance of a working group, the Contract Advisory Committee has transitioned to a new Contract Representative structure that opens a direct connection to the Board of Directors, and offers an improved opportunity for sharing directly with each Chapter's representatives.

The Budget Advisory Committee, and the Professional Learning and Development (PLD) Advisory Committee, each have a purpose embedded in the Association's history. The Budget Advisory Committee has just that as its annual scope: member voice in the development of the BCPVPA budget each spring. The Board depends upon the PLD Advisory Committee's feedback about membership needs related to learning and leadership development opportunities.

The Indigenous Leadership Advisory Committee was formed more than ten years ago to offer recommendations to the Board that might help increase our members' cultural competencies in regard to Truth and Reconciliation, alongside recommending ways in which our members who identify as Indigenous can be better supported by our Association.

The BCPVPA's other two Advisory Committees were created in response to changing societal priorities and awareness. The Member Health Advisory Committee was originally formed to focus on work intensification,

and has evolved to have a broader mandate in advising the Board about many aspects of member health. The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee, now in its second year, was preceded by the Anti-Racism Working Group, the members of which shared their collective perspectives and concerns with the Board over a two-year mandate. The EDIA Committee was created to continue that work of helping the Board to navigate change, to better understand the needs of equity-deserving groups and individuals in our membership, and to equip all members with the knowledge and tools that will help them to be successful in weaving the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion into their work.

Through their discussions, and with the guidance of members of the Board who chair each committee, members can bring to light their lived experiences and those of their colleagues, to inform the Board's decisions and ensure that members remain central to the work of the Association. Applications for the BCPVPA Advisory Committees open every spring, and the successful committee members are notified in advance of the new school year. Each committee's meeting dates are embedded as part of the application process, to better support members in planning their busy personal and professional lives.

If you are looking for a way to give back to our community of educational leaders, consider applying to be part of a BCPVPA committee. For more information, please contact Executive Director, Scott Robinson scott@bcvpva.bc.ca, or Deputy Executive Director, Magdalena Kassis magdalena@bcvpva.bc.ca.