

# Partners

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Professional associations like the BCPVPA depend upon many different factors to ensure that members are receiving the best possible services and supports. Member voice is key, and we invite and incorporate member feedback through a variety of means. The shared experience of our provincial partners, professional associations who are supporting their own members in BC's public education sector, is also critical to understanding the full scope of our local context.

Over time, the BCPVPA has also ventured beyond our borders, peeked over the Rockies, and made connections with other Canadian professional associations engaged in the work of supporting educational leaders. Our first contact many years ago was with the Ontario Principals' Council (OPC); with their membership of 5,400 elementary and secondary school leaders. They do very similar work to the BCPVPA but on a larger scale.

# BUILDING Connections

In 2018, Principals and Vice-Principals in Nova Scotia were removed from their province's teachers' union, leading to the formation of the Public School Administrators Association of Nova Scotia (PSAANS). Having experienced a similar transition in the late 1980s<sup>1</sup>, the BCPVPA was pleased to connect with our Nova Scotia colleagues to answer questions and recommend best practices.

Through these and other connections, the BCPVPA has made the acquaintance of the Association of Administrators of English Schools in Quebec (AAESQ), the Association des directions et des directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO), and the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO), each of whom share our common distinction of operating independently of the provincial teachers' federations.

[1 bcpvpa.insite.com/files/sites/bcpvpa/about-us/bcpvpa-intheirownwords-june2022.pdf](http://1.bcpvpa.insite.com/files/sites/bcpvpa/about-us/bcpvpa-intheirownwords-june2022.pdf)



The Presidents and Executive Directors of the Six Associations gathered in Victoria, BC in September 2025.

# “How do these cross-country and worldwide connections benefit our members?”

## Simply put, knowledge is strength.”

We come together for learning and leadership development activities as the **Six Associations**.

Most recently, the BCPVPA hosted our colleagues for a Leadership Summit in Victoria, BC, in September 2025. Expanding our scope beyond the ongoing relationship building between our presidents and executive directors/CEOs, this conference included staff from our professional learning and protective/support services teams to share more deeply about priorities and processes.

While collaboratively exploring the purpose, mandate, benefits, and challenges of the Six Associations, we also dug down into roles and governance, capacity building, wellness, leadership development opportunities, equity and Reconciliation, partnerships, and advocacy to best support our respective memberships.

Where our national connections with the Associations have helped us to understand other Canadian contexts, our global connections through the International Confederation of Principals (ICP) has brought us to a broader stage. The ICP is a global professional network of national school leader associations with the objective of encouraging teachers to join the next generation of educational leaders, addressing shared global issues such as Artificial Intelligence and climate education, and fostering the role of student voice in school leadership. The BCPVPA's Deputy Executive Director and Member Support Services Director, Magdalena Kassis, currently

sits on the executive as the Americas Representative.

How do these cross-country and worldwide connections benefit our members? Simply put, knowledge is strength. The roles of our members are evolving rapidly, everywhere in the world. Work intensification is a common marker across all of our connected organizations, as is the resulting need for improved attention to member health and well-being. Breathtaking innovations in technology, and their relentless march into our classrooms, have affected schools and educational leaders everywhere. Recently, during a meeting of the Executive Directors of the Six Associations, there was discussion about how the associations are using AI in the workplace. From developing policy governing AI, to concrete suggestions about how to use AI to enhance communication with members, it was clear that we all have much to learn, both about the topic and from each other.

And, we *are* learning from one another – sharing ideas, advances, and solutions – each time we connect with an Association leader from Ontario at a conference, message with a Nepalese Principal during a webcast, or pick up the phone for an update from a project colleague in Iceland. We are improving our systems, and adapting new concepts for our context. We are reaching beyond our borders to help build the best professional pathways for our members, for now and for the future.

Association of Administrators of English Schools in Quebec  
[aesq.ca](http://aesq.ca)

Association des directions et des directions adjointes  
des écoles franco-ontariennes  
[adfo.org](http://adfo.org)

BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association  
[bcpvpa.org](http://bcpvpa.org)

Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario  
[cpco.on.ca](http://cpco.on.ca)

Ontario Principals' Council  
[principals.ca](http://principals.ca)

Public School Administrators Association of Nova Scotia  
[psaans.ca](http://psaans.ca)

International Confederation of Principals  
[icponline.org](http://icponline.org)