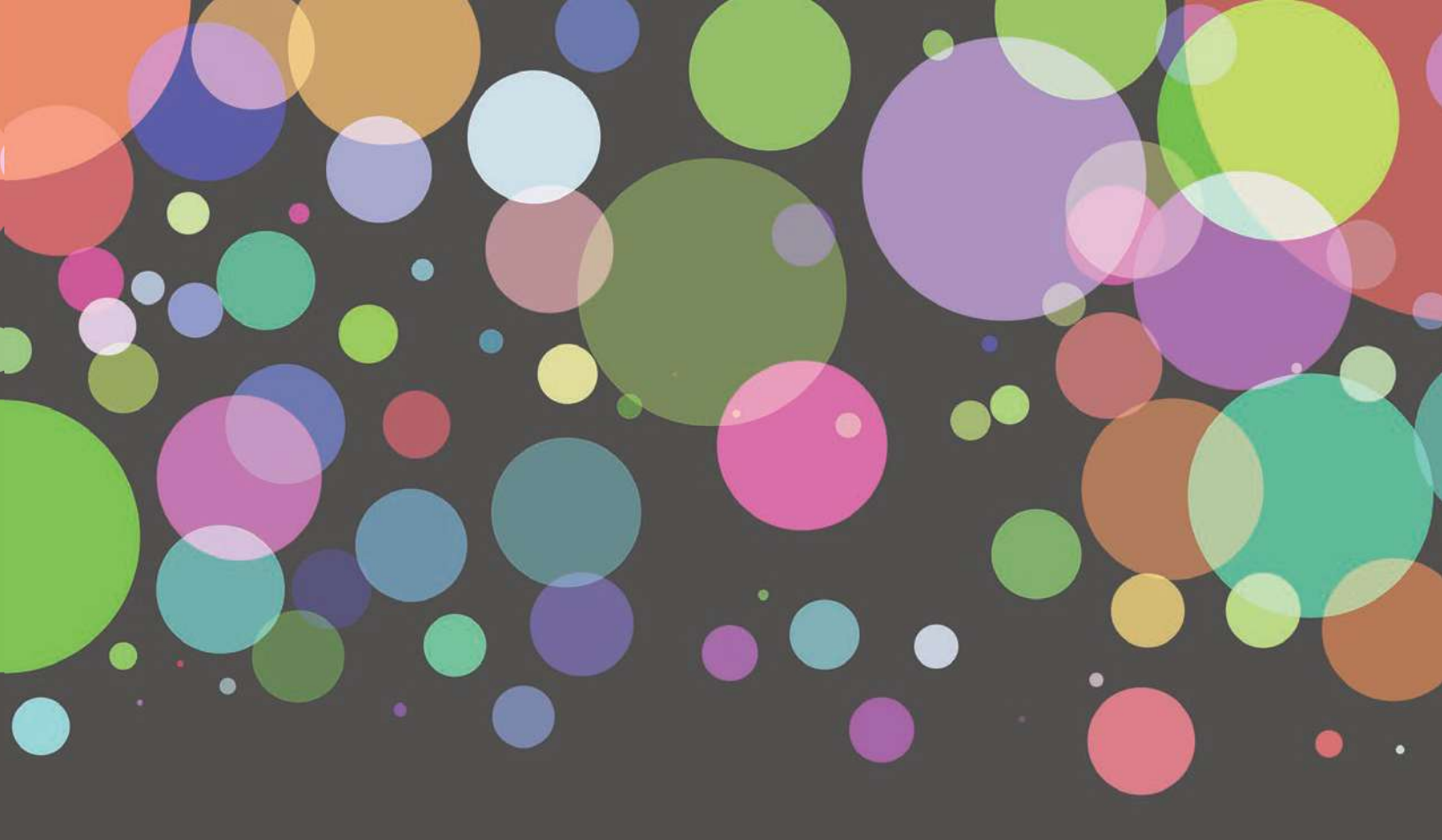


Building Our Curious **Community**

One of the greatest joys of my role as Director of Professional Learning and Development is traveling across our beautiful province and experiencing the incredible diversity of school and district contexts navigated daily by our members. From the coastal communities of Vancouver Island to the mountain districts of the Interior, and from urban Vancouver to rural northern communities, each conversation reveals the unique challenges and innovative solutions that define educational leadership in British Columbia.

Whether I am facilitating **Who Owns the Learning (School Attendance)**, watching colleagues dive deep into **School Safety**, or seeing the energy around our upcoming **Explorations for Aspiring School Leaders** series,



Where BC Principals **Connect** Beyond the Workshop

by
Peter Johnston
*Director of Professional
Learning & Development
BCPVPA*

there is one constant that never fails to inspire me: the moment when Principals and Vice-Principals from different districts connect and begin sharing their stories.

I often say that if you want to get a Principal talking, just ask them about their school. The passion is immediate, the challenges real, and the solutions often brilliant in their creativity. But here is what I have noticed over years of facilitating workshops from **The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People** to our **Multipliers** sessions – the most valuable learning doesn't always happen during the formal presentation. It happens in those precious moments during the table talks, the discussions with your “elbow partner,” and between sessions – over coffee, during lunch



– when colleagues from Kamloops connect with peers from Prince George, when Island educators share strategies with Fraser Valley leaders.

These connections are powerful, but they are also fleeting. When a two-and-a-half day workshop ends, we return to our schools, and that brilliant conversation about student engagement, or that innovative approach to staff well-being, gets buried under the daily demands and whirlwind of your school leadership. The Principal who shared that game-changing strategy for parent communication becomes a fond and fleeting memory, rather than an ongoing connection and resource.

What if it didn't have to end there?

What if that colleague from the Okanagan who had the perfect solution to your scheduling challenge was just a message away? What if the Vice-Principal from the North who pioneered an incredible approach to Indigenous education could continue mentoring others across the province? What if every challenge you face as a school leader could be met not just with your own experience, but with the collective wisdom

of 2,700 dedicated educators who truly understand your world?

This winter marks an exciting milestone for the BCPVPA. Alongside our robust programming – from our **AI Roundtable Series** to **Resiliency and Multipliers** destination learning, and from **IDEAS Forum 2026** to our ongoing **webcast series** – we are launching a pilot project that has been years in the making: an exclusive online community designed specifically for BC Principals and Vice-Principals.

This isn't another social media platform. This isn't a locale for vendors or consultants. This will be **our space**, a digital gathering place where the conversations sparked at our workshops can continue year-round, where the wisdom shared in our destination learning at Sparkling Hill can reach those colleagues who couldn't attend, where the insights from our **Connecting Leaders Conference** can stimulate ongoing collaboration.

Imagine logging in after a particularly challenging day and finding a thread where colleagues are sharing strategies for supporting anxious students. Picture

posting a question about innovative scheduling, and receiving thoughtful responses from Principals who have been there. Envision accessing resources shared by peers who attended workshops you missed, or contributing your own hard-won wisdom to help a struggling colleague in a remote district.

Our community will complement – not replace – the incredible learning we already provide through our programming. It will be the space where the Principal who missed our **Inclusive Leadership** workshop can still benefit from the insights shared by those who did attend. Where the Vice-Principal juggling a crisis during our **Time Management** webcast can access the strategies later, when they need them most.

Most importantly, it will be a place where we can be authentically ourselves – school and district-level Principals and Vice-Principals who understand the unique rewards and challenges of being an educational leader in British Columbia, who know what it means to balance Ministry of Education and Child Care directives alongside community needs, who recognize that leadership looks different on the Island than it does in the Peace Region, but who

share the common commitment to serving students and families across our province.

As we prepare for this launch, I'm reminded of something a Principal told me recently during our **Foundations For New School Leaders** conference:

"The best professional development isn't just about learning new strategies – it's about remembering that you're not alone in this work."

Our online community will ensure that no BC Principal or Vice-Principal ever has to feel alone in their leadership journey. The wisdom, support, and innovation that flow through our workshops, webcasts, and conferences will continue to grow and evolve in this new digital space we are creating together for our members.

Because the best learning happens when curious minds connect; and now, those connections won't have to end when the workshop does.

Stay tuned for more details about our community launch. Together, we're building something remarkable for BC educational leadership.

*Strangers become colleagues ... Colleagues become friends ...
And every connection becomes part of a community.*

