

7.1 F.I.S.A.

The letters of F.I.S.A. stand for the Federation of Independent School Associations. There are 4 main associations:

- a) The Catholic Public Schools Inter-society Committee (CPS) operate 71 (Roman) Catholic schools;
- b) The Independent Schools Association of B.C. (ISA) operate 15 boys, girls or co-ed schools in Vancouver or lower Vancouver Is.
- c) The Society of Christian in B.C. (SCS) represent 42 Christian schools throughout the province.
- d) The Associate Member Group (AMG) represents 49 schools

The Federation of Independent School Associations, founded in 1966, is an umbrella organization for the independent schools of B.C., representing 37,000 students in 177 schools. This accounts for 85% of the total independent school enrolment, and 60% of the independent schools. Generally, the schools outside of the FISA are very small.

The FISA is dedicated to assist independent schools in maintaining their independence while seeking fair treatment for them in legislative and financial terms. In practice this involves the Federation in frequent contact with elected officials concerning legislation and funding and with Ministry of Education officials in administering the Independent School Act. Independent school teachers serve on external evaluation teams, the Teacher Certification Committee, examination and assessment test panels, and various Ministry of Education committees.

In addition the Federation seeks to increase public awareness and acceptance of independent schools through media contacts and interviews, as well as liaison with other educationally related bodies both in the province and across Canada.

The Federation also serves as a liaison between independent schools and acts as an information service to them.

Finally, the Federation acts as a central office for groups that for administrative ease do not wish to deal with 177 schools, but will work with one office. In this manner Federal French Language Grants, Vancouver Foundations Grants, the Science Council of B.C. Grade 12 Science Book Awards, Pacific Rim Grants, and more are made available to the independent schools.

The FISA is managed by the executive board which is composed of one to three delegates from each Association. The AMG because of its diverse nature, may have one to six delegates but may only cast a maximum of three votes.

The FISA also has a full time executive director, Mr. Fred Herfst.

7.1.1 A.M.G.

The Associate Member Group (AMG) represents societies which operate 53 schools with a diverse outlook and philosophy such as Seventh Day Adventists, Mennonite Educational Institute, Jewish, Waldorf, Montessori, Learning Difficulties, Sikh, Canadian Reformed, etc. This diverse group of schools has the same rights as an association.