

What qualifies me to be a School Trustee? My years of experience both as a trustee and before that as a parent advocate on PACs, COPAC and as the President of BCCPAC. I served on many Ministry of Education committees and presented to BC educators and administrators on the importance of parental involvement in education, and on building partnerships which support our students. Since becoming a trustee I served on or chaired all Board committees, been the Board's Provincial Council representative to the BC School Trustees Association. I also served as the chairperson of the Board for 6 years.

I trained as a Registered Nurse at Guy's Hospital in London, England and I have lived in the Central Okanagan since 1973. My three sons received their schooling in School District No 23. In 1994 I moved from Kelowna to Peachland.

I have also been very involved in the communities where I have lived. The following, is some of the volunteer work I have undertaken. In Kelowna, I volunteered in the Health Unit's Well Baby Clinic; served on an Art Gallery fundraising committee; was on the Board of Directors and President of Okanagan Families Society; and volunteered at the Central Okanagan Injury Prevention Festival.

I was a founding member of the Peachland Friends of the Library; the first volunteer coordinator of the Rotary Club's One to One reading program at Peachland Elementary, and a member of the Central Okanagan Community Health Advisory Committee for several years. I volunteer every year at Peachland Elementary's Family Fun Night.

There are issues that the Board needs to deal with in the short term. We have many schools that are overcrowded whilst others are suffering with declining enrolment. We need to look at school catchment areas and grade configurations. Busing is also an ongoing problem - we need to provide a safe, environmentally sound way of getting students to school, yet we do not receive enough funding to cover our costs. We also need to find a way to provide transportation to our French Immersion students in Lake Country and on the Westside as they move to Middle and Secondary School which is only offered in Kelowna.

Special Needs students need to be better supported by government funding, and in order to be able to implement the Ministry's "21st Century Learning" program we must advocate for increased government support.

As we deal with the issues I have identified, we must realize that priorities change as provincial policy changes. For instance, the Ministry of Education suddenly informing School Boards that we would be now known as Boards of Education and be responsible for education from "cradle to grave." We need to revisit our strategic plan. While it is impossible to predict the future, we need to be ready for all scenarios. Many of our senior staff members are reaching retirement age and we must consider how we best fill those positions as they become vacant.

I welcome the challenges, and celebrate our successes.