



CACE Highlights

Meeting held May 24th, 2025

- **Agenda Summary:**
 - Literacy curriculum update
 - Preparation for meeting with Minister of Education/Advanced Education
 - Provincial Code of Conduct update
 - Membership update
 - DBDLI Symposium/Conference

- **Important Discussions:**
 - Members received a follow-up literacy presentation connected to an earlier session on the *Power to Read Equity Project*. This project originally focused on Primary to Grade 2 students and addressing the achievement gap. Data in the presentation reinforced the importance of phonemic awareness. ACSB shared that there has been a shift within the branch and department toward phonics-based instruction. Plans are underway to provide training for ELS teachers and to continue integrating phonics into classroom practice. The presenter also shared ongoing work with BEA to inform parents about these changes through the development of parent learning modules.
 - Members discussed the presentation content related to the achievement and opportunity gap, literacy instruction, and collaboration with BEA on parent modules. There was discussion on how CAEP programs could be better used to support efforts to address these gaps.
 - Recommendations for Education and early childhood development as well as Advanced education were developed by CACE members to share with the Minister's office in advance of the meeting.
 - An update was shared on council membership. Three new members are joining or returning to the council and are expected to be in place before the meeting with the Minister. Also, the terms of two of the members will end this upcoming year and they both shared they will start their re-application process.
 - An issue was flagged at the previous meetings regarding the Code of Conduct was addressed. Racial incidents and other key pieces that had been removed are now added back and are part of the final version of the Code of Conduct.
 - Members were informed about discussions held during the April professional development day about the Code of Conduct and its purpose in schools. These discussions focused on being accountable for putting the policy in place consistently across regions, while also taking student circumstances into account. Some regions are creating specific positions to support the implementation of the new policy. As part of accountability efforts, there will be a focus on identifying, tracking, and reporting unequal outcomes. Concerns were raised

about the use of 10-day or long-term suspensions, and it was clarified that existing appeal processes remain in place.

- Information was shared regarding plans underway to deliver a 30th Anniversary of the BLAC Report event around October of this year. Partners, including DBDLI and ANSA, are working on a larger 30th Anniversary conference for Spring 2026, with ACSB supporting where possible. The target audience will include both community and the education system. Members suggested inviting organizations such as PSAANS to raise awareness among school administrators, highlight work completed over the past 30 years, provide a snapshot of the current situation, and outline a vision for the next 30 years. Members also recommended that CACE be involved in the planning process.

Acronyms

- ACSB – African Canadian Services Branch
- DBDLI – Delmore ‘Buddy’ Daye Learning Institute
- PSAANS – Public School Administrators Association of Nova Scotia
- ANSA – African Nova Scotian Affairs
- BEA – Black Educators Association
- CAEP – Cultural Academic Enrichment Program