

Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation Inc.
Minutes (Draft) of the 73rd Annual General Meeting
Saturday, April 18, 2026
Rodd Charlottetown Hotel, Charlottetown, PEI

1. Welcome/Call to Order

President David Schult called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m., welcoming everyone to the 73rd Annual Meeting of the PEI Home and School Federation. David introduced the board members, executive director, and Bill Whelan, Parliamentarian. Note: There are over 100 delegates and guests registered, and 33 Home and School Associations.

Andrew MacFarlane, Chair of the Public Schools Board of Trustees was invited to speak. He introduced the trustees in attendance and reviewed the role of a trustee.

Adoption of Agenda April 18, 2026

MOTION: To adopt the 73rd Annual General Meeting's agenda, April 18, 2026, as circulated.

Moved by Dionne Tuplin (Board/Westisle/Ellerslie)

Seconded by Heather Mullen (Colonel Gray)

Motion Carried.

2. Adoption of AGM Minutes, April 12, 2025

MOTION: To adopt the minutes of the 72nd Annual General Meeting, April 12, 2025.

Moved by Brittany Chappell (Vernon River)

Seconded by Leanne Feehan (Mt. Stewart)

Motion Carried.

3. President's Report

David presented highlights from his report. Refer to the Book of Reports (pgs. 18-21). We partner with stakeholders; we don't have the answer to solve the problem, but together we can solve it.

4. Financial Report

Craig Goodick, Treasurer, presented the report on the financial position of the PEIHSF fiscal year 2025, referencing the Book of Reports (pgs. 22-29). Thanks to the Department of Education and Early Years and donors for their support for this year's AGM.

MOTION: To adopt the 2025 Fiscal Year Financial Review, prepared by Arsenault Best Cameron Ellis, as presented.

Moved by Coreen Pickering (Queen Elizabeth)

Seconded Keisha Clements (Donagh)

Motion Carried.

MOTION: To approve the accounting firm, Arsenault Best Cameron Ellis, to do PEIHSF accounting services for 2026.

Moved by Dionne Tuplin (Board/Westisle/Ellerslie)

Seconded by Heather Mullen (Colonel Gray)

Motion Carried.

5. Other Reports

Local Association Annual Reports are submitted by Association presidents/co-chairs (pages 30-101). David urged delegates to review these reports to learn more about Home and School activities in other school communities across the island. Local Association annual reports are accepted as circulated.

6. Resolutions

Tom Deelstra chaired the resolution portion of the meeting.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-01 INTEGRATING PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT INTO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL BUDGET

Submitted by Prince Street Home and School Association

WHEREAS play is essential for children’s development and for their physical, mental, and social health. [Canadian Pediatric Society, July 2024], and

WHEREAS the right to play is recognized in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to be as fundamental as the rights to be cared for and protected from violence. [Canadian Pediatric Society, July 2024], and

WHEREAS the Government of Prince Edward Island states that
“It is steadfast in its efforts to improve child well-being across the province; every child deserves the opportunity to grow, thrive, and feel supported in every aspect of their life. In Prince Edward Island, we are committed to creating a brighter future for our youngest residents by addressing the key dimensions of their well-being. From nurturing emotional resilience and physical health to ensuring economic stability, safety, and a sense of belonging, our province is taking meaningful steps to support children and families at every stage of their journey. [Initiatives for Young Children in Prince Edward Island, 2019-2025, Government of Prince Edward Island, February 2025]”, and

WHEREAS parent committees struggle to fundraise enough money to purchase CSA-certified playground equipment. Due to the high cost of living, the level of charitable giving in Canada is falling. “From 2013 to 2023, almost every province recorded a drop in the share of aggregate income donated to charity, with the largest being the 24.7

percent decline seen in PEI.” Fraser Institute, National Newswatch, Dec. 15, 2025, and

WHEREAS parent committees are volunteers and may not have the legal expertise currently required to purchase playground equipment for schools. “PEI Parents Group Upset After New Playground Equipment Didn’t Meet Standards,” CBC News, Dec. 17, 2025, and

WHEREAS the Government of Prince Edward Island currently offers a Playground Equipment Fund contributing up to 50% (max \$25,000) for equipment at CSLF or PSB schools. A single CSA certified playground structure can currently cost up to \$150,000.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation urges the Department of Education and Early Years and the Public Schools Branch to establish playground equipment and accessible outdoor play spaces as standard components within the provincial capital budget for new school builds, expansions, and major renovations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this capital funding commitment cover not only installation, but also the timely replacement of expired or unsafe equipment according to best practices and CSA standards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that consultation with parent advocates, accessibility organizations, and school communities be included in the planning process to ensure equity and inclusion.

DESTINATION: Minister of Education and Early Years
PEI Premier of PEI
Green Party Critic for Education and Early Years
Liberal Party Critic for Education and Early Years
NDP PEI Executive and Council

BACKGROUND:

1. Position Statement of Canadian Pediatric Society, “Healthy childhood development through outdoor risky play: Navigating the balance with injury prevention” Paediatrics & Child Health, Volume 29, Issue 4, July 2024, Pages 255-261

MOTION: That the PEIHSF adopt Resolution 2026-01.

Moved by Josie Courtney (Prince Street)

Seconded by Tanya Arsenault (Prince Street)

Amendment: To improve the resolution by changing the resolved statement as follows:
1ST THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation urges the Department of Education and Early Years and the Public Schools Branch **to establish playground equipment and accessible outdoor play spaces and learning environment infrastructure as standard components within the provincial capital budget and annual operating budgets for new school builds, expansions, and major renovations.**

Amendment to change the resolution title as follows:

INTEGRATING OUTDOOR PLAY SPACES AND INFRASTRUCTURE INTO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL BUDGETS

The motion, as amended, was carried by a majority in favour, 3 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The final adopted resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION 2026-01 INTEGRATING OUTDOOR PLAY SPACES AND INFRA-
STRUCTURE INTO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL BUDGETS

Submitted by Prince Street Home and School Association

WHEREAS play is essential for children’s development and for their physical, mental, and social health. [Canadian Pediatric Society, July 2024], and

WHEREAS the right to play is recognized in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to be as fundamental as the rights to be cared for and protected from violence. [Canadian Pediatric Society, July 2024], and

WHEREAS the Government of Prince Edward Island states that
“It is steadfast in its efforts to improve child well-being across the province; every child deserves the opportunity to grow, thrive, and feel supported in every aspect of their life. In Prince Edward Island, we are committed to creating a brighter future for our youngest residents by addressing the key dimensions of their well-being. From nurturing emotional resilience and physical health to ensuring economic stability, safety, and a sense of belonging, our province is taking meaningful steps to support children and families at every stage of their journey. [Initiatives for Young Children in Prince Edward Island, 2019-2025, Government of Prince Edward Island, February 2025]’, and

WHEREAS parent committees struggle to fundraise enough money to purchase CSA-certified playground equipment. Due to the high cost of living, the level of charitable giving in Canada is falling. “From 2013 to 2023, almost every province recorded a drop in the share of aggregate income donated to charity, with the largest being the 24.7 percent decline seen in PEI.” Fraser Institute, National Newswatch, Dec. 15, 2025, and

WHEREAS parent committees are volunteers and may not have the legal expertise currently required to purchase playground equipment for schools. “PEI Parents Group Upset After New Playground Equipment Didn’t Meet Standards,” CBC News, Dec. 17, 2025, and

WHEREAS the Government of Prince Edward Island currently offers a Playground Equipment Fund contributing up to 50% (max \$25,000) for equipment at CSLF or PSB schools. A single CSA certified playground structure can currently cost up to \$150,000.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation urges the Department of Education and Early Years and the Public Schools Branch to establish playground equipment and accessible outdoor play spaces and learning environment infrastructure as standard components within the provincial capital budgets and annual operating budgets for new school builds, expansions, and major renovations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this capital funding commitment cover not only installation, but also the timely replacement of expired or unsafe equipment according to best practices and CSA standards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that consultation with parent advocates, accessibility organizations, and school communities be included in the planning process to ensure equity and inclusion.

DESTINATION: Minister of Education and Early Years
PEI Premier of PEI
Green Party Critic for Education and Early Years
Liberal Party Critic for Education and Early Years
NDP PEI Executive and Council

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-02 INCREASE PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL
ASSESSMENT CAPACITY FOR SCHOOL-AGED
CHILDREN IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

Submitted by Stratford Home and School Association

WHEREAS psycho-educational assessments are essential for identifying students' learning, cognitive, emotional, and behavioural needs, enabling schools and families to implement appropriate and timely supports and interventions, and

WHEREAS timely access to psycho-educational assessments is critical to student success, yet students in Prince Edward Island (PEI) frequently experience wait times of one year or longer for school-based assessments due to limited capacity and increasing demand, and

WHEREAS provincial reviews and reports have identified lengthy wait times for psycho-educational assessments as a systemic concern, noting that delays can negatively impact student outcomes and place additional strain on educators and classroom resources, and

WHEREAS delays in accessing assessments create inequities for families, as those with financial means may pursue private assessments at significant personal cost, while others must remain on extended wait lists for publicly funded services, and

WHEREAS without timely assessment and identification, students may be unable to access appropriate accommodations, individualized programming, or interventions,

potentially affecting their academic achievement, social-emotional well-being, and long-term educational outcomes, and

WHEREAS increasing psycho-educational assessment capacity aligns with inclusive education principles and supports early identification and intervention, which are proven to improve outcomes for students with diverse learning needs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation requests that the Department of Education and Early Years (DEEY) and the Public Schools Branch (PSB):

1. Invest in additional school psychologists and psycho-educational assessment positions within future staffing allocations to significantly reduce wait times for assessments for school-aged children across Prince Edward Island.
2. Establish and communicate clear provincial timelines and service benchmarks for the completion of psycho-educational assessments and the sharing of results with families and schools.
3. Provide annual public reporting on psycho-educational assessment wait lists, completed assessments, and staffing levels to ensure transparency and accountability.
4. Explore and expand alternative service delivery models, including partnerships and pilot initiatives, to increase assessment capacity and meet the growing demand for services.

DESTINATION: Minister of Education and Early Years
Public Schools Branch/Board of Trustees
PEI Premier of PEI

SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND REFERENCES:

- Prince Edward Island reports have identified psycho-educational assessment wait times of approximately one year or more, indicating that current service capacity does not meet demand.
https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/better_together_report.pdf
- Provincial reviews of mental health and youth services have highlighted the importance of timely access to assessments for children and youth and the negative impacts of prolonged wait times.
<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/mhareport.pdf>
- National research notes that delayed or inaccessible psycho-educational assessments can contribute to inequities, particularly for families unable to afford private services.
<https://cps.ca/documents/position/learning-disorder>

MOTION: That the PEIHSF adopt Resolution 2026-02.

Moved by Femke Hakkers (Stratford).

Seconded by Emily Owens (Stratford).

Point of reference: Discounting educators, there is a shortage of professionals to do these assessments; PEI should have a needs-based model vs. diagnosis-based.

The motion was defeated by a vote of 16 in favour, 20 opposed, and 22 abstentions.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-03 REPEAL SECTION 43 AND PROHIBIT
CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN**

Submitted by Colonel Gray Home and School Association

WHEREAS Canada's Criminal Code still allows adults to hit children through section 43, which creates a special defense for parents, teachers, and "persons standing in the place of a parent" who use "reasonable" force by way of correction, making children the only group in Canada singled out in law as people who may be physically punished if an adult can convince a court the force was "reasonable"; and

WHEREAS over time, Canadians have removed legal defenses that once allowed physical punishment of prisoners, sailors, apprentices, wives, and others, strengthened protections for animals, and affirmed that violence is not an acceptable way to resolve conflict, yet have left in place the defense that allows adults to cause pain to children in the name of discipline; and

WHEREAS Canada has signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and promised to protect children from "all forms of physical violence," yet section 43 remains, sending a confusing message to children when they are taught that "violence is never the answer" while the law still says being hit is sometimes acceptable if you are small enough and call the person hitting you "Mom," "Dad," or "teacher"; and

WHEREAS love grounded in dignity and non-violence uses evidence-based guidance and discipline, not fear and pain, and a substantial body of research has accumulated against corporal punishment, with sixty-seven countries around the world having abolished similar legal defenses and moved to fully protect children from physical punishment by 2025; and

WHEREAS Canada, a country that sees itself as a leader on human rights, is now trailing behind many other nations in offering children full legal protection from physical punishment in their homes, schools, and other child-serving settings; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation urges the Government of Canada to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code and to remove any legal defense that permits the use of corporal punishment or other forms of physical punishment against children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation calls upon the Government of Prince Edward Island, the Department of Education and Early Years, and the Public Schools Branch to update all relevant provincial legislation, regulations, and policies to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment and all forms of physical punishment in all child-serving settings, including schools, early learning and child-care programs, and residential or institutional settings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation urges the provincial government and education partners to provide and fund positive, non-violent, evidence-based tools for guidance and discipline, so that parents, caregivers, and educators are supported to use approaches that align with messages of kindness, anti-bullying, and healthy relationships promoted in schools throughout the year.

DESTINATION: Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Minister(s) responsible for Children and Social Development of Canada
Minister of Education and Early Years of PEI
Public Schools Branch/Board of Trustees of PEI
Minister of Health and Wellness of PEI
Minister of Justice and Public Safety of PEI
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of PEI
Public Schools Branch / Board of Trustees
Premier of PEI

MOTION: That the PEIHSF adopt Resolution 2026-03.

Moved by Heather Mullen (Colonel Gray).

Seconded by David Schult (Colonel Gray).

The motion was carried by a majority voting in favour, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-04 URGING COMPLIANCE WITH PEI TEACHER LIBRARIAN DIRECTIVE (MD 2025-05) BY HIRING A PROVINCIAL TEACHER-LIBRARIAN LEADER

Submitted by: Bloomfield and O’Leary Home and School Associations

WHEREAS young people in Prince Edward Island have increasing information literacy needs particularly in the face of rapidly developing AI, social media, and

WHEREAS the Public Schools Branch and the Department of Education and Early Years value Inquiry-Based Education, and

WHEREAS certified Teacher-Librarians are specialists in teaching information literacy and inquiry-based education, and are at the forefront in developing AI literacy education, and

WHEREAS School Libraries (also known as Learning Commons) are a tried and true means for sharing resources in difficult economic times, with Teacher-Librarian District Leaders ensuring consistency and professional development in the field, and

WHEREAS the Education Authority Staffing and Funding Program Ministerial Directive MD 2025-05 provides guidance of minimum full-time equivalent (FTE) allocations for

certified Teacher Librarians based on school enrollment to ensure equitable access to library programs and literacy support, and

WHEREAS these allocations specify 0.25 FTE for schools under 200 students, 0.5 FTE for 200–299 students, 1.0 FTE for 300–799 students, and 1.5 FTE for 800+ students, as a distinct category under instructional non-supervisory personnel, independent of grade configuration, and

WHEREAS very few PEI schools are in compliance with these allocations, and few PEI schools have certified or trained Teacher-Librarians, and

WHEREAS there is currently no Teacher-Librarian Leader in either the Department of Education and Early Years, or the Public Schools Branch, to track progress towards the Ministers' Directive, to provide professional development for Teacher-Librarians, or to monitor hiring practices so that all students across the Island have the benefits of a fully certified/trained Teacher-Librarian in their school library, and

WHEREAS consistent implementation supports student learning and well-being, fosters parent and community collaboration, and upholds educational equity across Prince Edward Island, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation respectfully urges the Department of Education and Early Years and the Public Schools Branch to hire a full-time Teacher-Librarian Leader to strengthen and enhance school library programs across the province, while monitoring progress toward compliance with the Minister's Directive on School Libraries, to coordinate system-wide improvement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this position also provides leadership in professional learning for lead Teacher-Librarians, supports the hiring of certified and trained Teacher-Librarians in all schools, thereby promoting the development of a shared culture of Learning Commons within Island schools.

DESTINATION: Minister of Education and Early Years
Public Schools Branch/Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1m5q4CF8dwTRKZxByT1QqYjYiFJ4P8SWX_L16wYO1yms/edit?usp=sharing

¹ <https://accessola.com/ontario-school-library-impact-project/>

¹ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/librarians-teach-ai-9.7055661>

https://researcharchive.canadianschoollibraries.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/TMC8_2025_Casa-Todd.pdf

¹ <https://tmcanada.blogspot.com/p/tmc8-fowler-jeffery-macdonald.html>

MOTION: That the PEIHSF adopt Resolution 2026-04.

Moved by Andrea Pickett-Gallant (Bloomfield).

Seconded by Samantha Shaw-Veniot (O’Leary).

Amendment: Department of Education and Early Years and the Public Schools Branch to work together.

The motion was carried by a majority of 45 voting in favour, 3 opposed, and 17 abstentions.

The final adopted resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION 2026-04 URGING COMPLIANCE WITH PEI TEACHER LIBRARIAN DIRECTIVE (MD 2025-05) BY HIRING A PROVINCIAL TEACHER-LIBRARIAN LEADER

Submitted by: Bloomfield and O’Leary Home and School Associations

WHEREAS young people in Prince Edward Island have increasing information literacy needs particularly in the face of rapidly developing AI, social media, and

WHEREAS the Public Schools Branch and the Department of Education and Early Years value Inquiry-Based Education, and

WHEREAS certified Teacher-Librarians are specialists in teaching information literacy and inquiry-based education, and are at the forefront in developing AI literacy education, and

WHEREAS School Libraries (also known as Learning Commons) are a ‘tried and true’ means for sharing resources in difficult economic times, with Teacher-Librarian District Leaders ensuring consistency and professional development in the field, and

WHEREAS the Education Authority Staffing and Funding Program Ministerial Directive MD 2025-05 provides guidance of minimum full-time equivalent (FTE) allocations for certified Teacher Librarians based on school enrollment to ensure equitable access to library programs and literacy support, and

WHEREAS these allocations specify 0.25 FTE for schools under 200 students, 0.5 FTE for 200–299 students, 1.0 FTE for 300–799 students, and 1.5 FTE for 800+ students, as a distinct category under instructional non-supervisory personnel, independent of grade configuration, and

WHEREAS very few PEI schools are in compliance with these allocations, and few PEI schools have certified or trained Teacher-Librarians, and

WHEREAS there is currently no Teacher-Librarian Leader in either the Department of Education and Early Years, or the Public Schools Branch, to track progress towards the Ministers’ Directive, to provide professional development for Teacher-Librarians, or to monitor hiring practices so that all students across the

Island have the benefits of a fully certified/trained Teacher-Librarian in their school library, and

WHEREAS consistent implementation supports student learning and well-being, fosters parent and community collaboration, and upholds educational equity across Prince Edward Island, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation respectfully urges the Department of Education and Early Years and the Public Schools Branch to work together to hire a full-time Teacher-Librarian Leader to strengthen and enhance school library programs across the province, while monitoring progress toward compliance with the Minister's Directive on School Libraries, to coordinate system-wide improvement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this position also provides leadership in professional learning for lead Teacher-Librarians, supports the hiring of certified and trained Teacher-Librarians in all schools, thereby promoting the development of a shared culture of Learning Commons within Island schools.

DESTINATION: Minister of Education and Early Years
Public Schools Branch/Board of Trustees

7. Nominating Report/Elections

Dionne Tuplin, Chair of the Nominations, presented the Slate of Officers and called for further nominations three times from the floor to fill vacant positions. The slate of officers was nominated as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominees</u>	<u>Two-Year Term Expires</u>
President	Tom Deelstra	AGM 2028
Vice President	-	AGM 2028
Charlottetown Rural	Bethany Robinson	AGM 2028
Colonel Gray	-	AGM 2028
Kinkora	Steve Charlebois	AGM 2028
Montague	Kate Drake	AGM 2028
Morell	-	AGM 2028

MOTION: To call for nominations to cease and approve the P.E.I. Home and School Federation board of directors for 2025-2026 as presented.

Moved by Bevan Woodacre (Three Oaks).

Seconded by Craig Goodick (Montague Intermediate)

The motion was carried by a majority voting in favour, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

MOTION: To accept the slate of officers for 2026-2027 as presented.

Moved by Christina Sidwell (Ellerslie).

Seconded by Coreen Pickering (Queen Elizabeth)

The motion was carried by a majority voting in favour, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

David thanked outgoing board members Dionne Tuplin, Mary MacDonald-Pickering, and Sylvie de Sousa for their service in the PEIHSF.

Bill Whelan, the Parliamentarian, conducted the Installation of Officers for the 2026–2027 PEI Home and School Federation Board.

2026-2027 Executive/Board of Directors

President	Tom Deelstra	(AGM 2028)
Past President	David Schult	(AGM 2028)
Vice President	Vacant	(AGM 2028)
Treasurer	Craig Goodick	(AGM 2027)
Secretary	Bev Campbell	(AGM 2027)
Bluefield	Andrea Kelly	(AGM 2027)
Charlottetown Rural	Bethany Robinson	(AGM 2028)
Colonel Gray	Vacant	(AGM 2028)
Kensington	Coreen Pickering	(AGM 2027)
Kinkora	Steve Charlebois	(AGM 2028)
Montague	Katie Drake	(AGM 2028)
Morell	Vacant	(AGM 2028)
Souris	Kelly Steele	(AGM 2027)
Three Oaks	Vacant	(AGM 2027)
Westisle	Christina Sidwell	(AGM 2027)

8. New Business

There is no new business.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the 73rd Annual Business Meeting at 9:50 a.m.
Moved by Dionne Tuplin (Board/Westisle/Ellerslie).

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Campbell, Recording Secretary
PEI Home and School Federation