

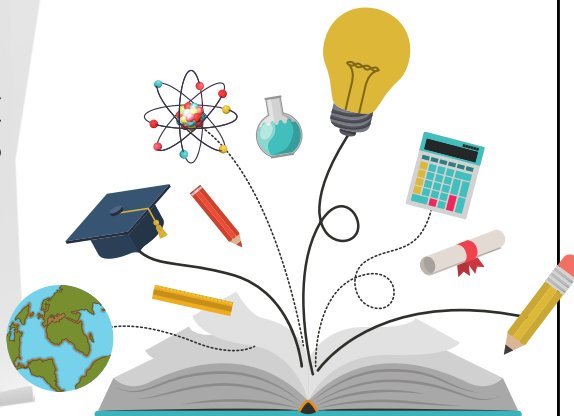


Pro-D Newsletter

FEBURARY 2025

24/25 Pro-D Committee

Matt Huang - Pro-D Chair - SE
Kathy Macfarlane - DTA 1st VP
Fiona Higgs - DCC
Luana Foulkes - SH
Louise O'Brien - NG
Elen Nikas - SA
Tanja Cvekic - EB



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A Note from the Pro-D Chair...

This year has been quite the change for me. I went from primarily focused on following the motto, "life-long learner," that was introduced to me in my Bachelor of Education program, to now supporting my colleagues as the DTA Pro-D Chair while they engage in their life-long learning journeys. During my weekly allotted time at the DTA office going over Pro-D applications, seeing the myriad of workshops that Delta teachers are attending to improve their practice makes me glad to have taken on this role (despite the sore wrist after signing the mountain of applications for PSA day).

Yet, my first year in this role is definitely a learning process with numerous hiccups, and I appreciate both the membership and the DTA Office staff's patience as I familiarize myself with my responsibilities. Brianna Redwood, in particular, has been instrumental in helping me get settled, and I would like to remind members that her workload, especially around the October PSA day, is overwhelming, and communications with her should be filled with patience and respect.

Matt Huang,
DTA Pro-D Chair



New Pro-D Application Forms

NEW!

We have heard your feedback about various issues around the PD application form and Brianna has created a new, more streamlined form that is now available on our website. One section of the form I would like to highlight is the “School/District Funding Received (By Principal)” column.

HR has mentioned that each school is given \$30 per teacher for professional development. While many schools no longer provide this money (or a portion of it) to each teacher for conferences/workshops, there are still eight elementary schools that continue this practice. Therefore, we need a space for teachers to indicate that they’re receiving money from their principals. If you’re not receiving money from your principal for PD, just leave this column blank.

Additionally, if you’re in a school that is not receiving funding for conferences/workshops, it may be worthwhile for the Staff Committee and/or the PD Committee to ask the principal what the money is going towards. If your school’s teaching staff is not happy with the answer, considering creating a Staff Committee recommendation.

Curious about what the Pro-D Committee does?

DTA Constitution: Article 12.03 Duties The Professional Development Committee shall:

- a.** Develop annually a plan for providing professional support and development to teachers;
- b.** Provide advice to the Executive Committee and Staff Representative Assembly on all matters related to professional development;
- c.** Assist the Association to maintain teacher control of teacher professional development;
- d.** Initiate and organize professional and curriculum development activities, and in-service as deemed necessary;
- e.** Keep a record of all meetings and report to the annual general meeting;
- f.** Establish annual budget and review regular budget reports;
- g.** Review member appeals.



Differences from Other Locals

One thing I would like to highlight in this newsletter is that some of the DTA PD policies can be quite different than other locals, which ultimately arises from differences in our collective agreement. For example, a nearby local only receives \$100 of PD funds per member every year, which they place in individual accounts that slowly accumulate overtime to a certain maximum. It would take members several years to accumulate the funds to attend workshops outside of the lower mainland under this system, as opposed to the DTA PD policy of pooling the PD funds on a first come, first served, up to \$700 per year basis. Because of the pooling of our funds, as the PD Chair I need to verify if applications meet the BCTF PD lens to ensure that all members have an opportunity to gain access to learning opportunities to enhance their practice.

In rare occasions where an application is denied, I urge members to go through the appeal process, where the DTA PD Committee (and potentially the Executive Committee) reviews denied applications to see if it meets the BCTF PD Lens.

Underutilized Funds



The DTA PD funds are currently allocated into four categories: **Regular PD**, **Credit Courses**, the **New Teachers' Conference**, and **Self-Directed PD**. While the first two are well utilized by our members, the latter two are not. Here is some additional information about these two funds in hopes of attracting more applicants.

The **New Teachers' Conference** is designed for teachers in their first five years of teaching, TTOCs, student teachers, and those who are coming back to teaching after being away from the classroom. While the Vancouver conference has already happened, there is still one happening in May in Nanaimo. You can find more information about it here: <https://www.newteachersconference.ca/nanaimo2025/>

If you fit the criteria above and are interested, you may complete a regular PD application form at <https://www.deltateachers.org/pd-information-and-application-forms/> and submit it to Brianna via email. This category has funds for 30 members to attend the conference each year.

The **self-directed** fund is for members wishing to engage in **self-directed PD** activities that cannot be completed during the regular school day such as school/program visits, collaboration, mentoring, and peer coaching. The fund covers TTOC costs for a day for up to thirty members. This fund has its own form that can be found at the bottom right corner of the DTA PD website, <https://www.deltateachers.org/pd-information-and-application-forms/>



More Than Just School Based Pro-Ds



This year there has been an increase in professional development outside of our schools. For example, for the January Pro-D Day, Cherie Nagra organized an event at NDSS that invited two West Vancouver science teachers, Scott Lawson and Matt Trask, to present about proficiency-based assessment in senior courses. Other north end secondary teachers were invited to attend.

Cross-school PD opportunities can be a precursor for Local Specialist Associations (LSAs). Imagine that for some PD days, instead of all the teachers at the school having a workshop on a general topic, secondary subject-specific teachers and elementary grade-specific teachers from different schools get together for in-depth discussions, workshops, and/or conferences to enhance their pedagogy. LSAs can organize and plan these events. If anybody is interested in reviving/starting a LSA, please contact the DTA office.

Pro-D Opportunities



The BCTF is hosting a New Teachers' Conference in Nanaimo on May 10, 2025. This conference is designed specifically for teachers and TTOC's in their first five years of teaching, as well as teacher candidates. Visit this link to register:

<https://www.newteachersconference.ca/nanaimo2025/#registration>

mypita PROVINCIAL
INTERMEDIATE AND
MIDDLE YEARS TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION
FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 24, 2025 ONLINE & IN-PERSON IN MISSION



myPita is looking for presenters for the 2025 PSA Day conference. For more information, or to submit your workshop proposal visit this link:

<https://sessionize.com/mypita>



SELF-REG COURSE

Self-Reg for Teachers

Teachers, are you ready to decode stress behaviours, foster resilience, and support your own energy and wellbeing in the classroom? Sign up for this ~8-hour/self-paced course to explore the game-changing processes and principles of Self-Reg, without the time commitment of a fully facilitated course with TMC. Delve into the science of stress and applied Self-Reg through engaging videos and resource materials while learning directly from Stuart Shanker, Susan Hopkins and others. Embark on a journey to evolve classrooms into havens of growth, learning and wellbeing. Enroll now to start your Self-Reg journey!

Provincial Intermediate and Middle Years Teachers Association presents

Squamish

2025 MAY 9 CHEAKAMUS CENTRE
Grade 4-9 Teacher Pro-D Workshops

Register at
mypita.ca
@bcpita mypitabc

Early bird benefits until noon on March 15. Last year sold out!

Art and Science in Nature	Math
Fun and Empowering Games	Outdoor Education
Indigenous Cultural Learning	SEL and Mental Wellbeing

Self-Reg Course registration: https://www.self-reg.com/course/self-regforteachers?utm_source=The+MEHRIT+Centre&utm_campaign=fb0b8fec4b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_09_04_02_36_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-992d34f150-463531113&mc_cid=fb0b8fec4b&mc_eid=054e3aee71