

<u>PRO-D NEWSLETTER</u>

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE PRO-D COMMITTEE
OF 2023-2024

JEANIE MCKAY, CHAIR - NDSS

ALISON ROCHE - DTA 1ST VP KATHY MACFARLANE - DTA 2ND VP & NDSS FIONA HIGGS - DCC

LUANA FOULKES - HA LOUISE O'BRIEN - NG ELEN NIKAS - SA MATT HUANG - SE

TANJA CVEKIC - EB

YOUK

<u>A note from the PD chair</u>



When we debriefed District Day we heard of many wonderful moments of learning, of increasing awareness of how to decolonize our lessons, of new ways to think about the curriculum, of techniques to bring mindfulness to our practice, and so many more valuable lessons that enrich our professional practice. Some of our colleagues bravely set up to teach their workshop; they prepped and practiced, and sweated about getting up in front of a crowd of their peers. Teachers signed up for their workshops and it was requested that we open more sessions because they couldn't get in. Amazing! Exciting!

But then the organizing committee was made aware that many teachers skipped school that day, particularly in the afternoon. Some teachers remember being schooled by certain colleagues back in the day when we entered the profession, "Just get there first thing in the morning, grab a coffee, and get seen by your principal. Have a look around the displays and be seen, and then we'll all go for lunch." Yes, that happened.

Today, most teachers know that if you want to be respected as a professional and want autonomy for developing your professional skills, it's important to attend Professional Development events, such as District Day. So, let's focus on the positive. I want to remind each of us that District Day, and in-school PD Days are positive learning moments. I do know that 1100 people went to District Day and found something valuable. I do know that most teachers attend their amazing site Pro D Days and find value. And I want to encourage us all to remember that opportunities are what you make of them. Join your PD Committee and make a fabulous day that you and your colleagues will value. Go to the workshops and be present in the moment, actively looking for value. Persevere. You will always find value if you are looking for it. Participating in excellent professional development is the key to keeping you interested (and interesting) for the rest of your career. I encourage everyone to get active and stay engaged. It is worth it. It sure has been for me!

I also welcome our new PD Chair, Matt Huang, who will be transitioning into the role over the next several months. He has been on the DTA PD Committee for two years, and was elected to the position of Chair at our Annual General meeting. He will be consistent, thorough, and logical. Therefore, excellent! I thank him in advance for his service to DTA colleagues.

In tie-dye solidarity,

Jeanie McKay PD Chair



JUNE 2024



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Have you attended a conference or completed a course and not yet received your reimbursement?

Please send in your receipts to the DTA office asap, <u>deadline is</u> <u>June 24, 2024</u>





"Hands off my PD"

PD Days were added to the school calendar in 1972; the number of days we worked increased with no loss of instructional days for students. Teachers realized that we needed time during the year to improve our practice and stay current. Those are our days, so we must be protective of them, and use them wisely so that the Government doesn't try to take control of that time. Get involved with your school PD Committee, and design valuable days for yourself and your staff. If you find that your administrator is taking too much control over these days, activate your Staff Committee to make a proposal about how your staff wishes to use them. You can also consider self-directed PD. Do you need help figuring out how to do this? Contact the DTA and Alison or Kathy will walk you through the process.





This change will be effective July 1, 2024:

up to \$700.00 is available per member per school year for regular PD (Canada and USA only). If you have already applied for funding for summer activities, your application will be adjusted to reflect the new change. We are in the process of updating the forms; in the meantime please use existing forms and changes will be made at the DTA office.

The remaining PD application form limits will remain the same:

up to \$1500.00 is available per member per school year for **credit courses** only.

Self-directed PD - 1 TTOC day per applicant per school year. There are a maximum of 30 available for the entire membership.

Any questions contact

brianna@deltateachers.org

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

when applying for Remedy and Professional Development funding



PD funding comes directly from the contract, and the DTA is obliged to use it to support the professional development of DTA members. Remedy funding also comes directly from the contract, but it arises from situations in which the District is not able to meet the terms of class size and composition. So, the intent of remedy funding is that it is to be used to help the teacher meet the needs that those contract violations caused... to provide time to prepare or mark, to provide funding to attend the professional conferences that you need to deal with those students, or to provide something tangible that will help you to teach your subject in your room. We encourage those who have PD remedy funds available, to use them before applying for regular PD funding, as it is in limited supply for all teachers. When you apply for remedy, make sure you use the correct form (Inschool remedy form). Each year, current application forms are available on the Delta Teachers Association website **Delta Teachers**. Please ensure that you use current forms, and that you completely follow the instructions on each form.

More Pro-D News...

Why was an application denied based on the BCTF PD Lens?



Although the DTA PD Chair approves hundreds of thousands of dollars each year of really valuable PD, now and then a proposed activity does not meet the BCTF PD Lens, so it gets denied. So how does this work? The Lens has criteria that is used to highlight thinking of PD as individual and collective. The necessary factors include questions like, "Does this activity help me improve the work I do in my role as a teacher?" This means, that the proposed PD must be relevant to your job. Another factor that must be taken into consideration is, "Does this activity meet obligations to colleagues, collective agreements, and our profession?" This means, does doing this activity make teachers comply with the contract and be acceptable to the society that has high expectations for us as teachers... or colloquially, would doing this activity meet the sniff test. If it doesn't, then it gets denied. Then you can reach out to the DTA for the appeal process or read about it on the website.

THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LENS

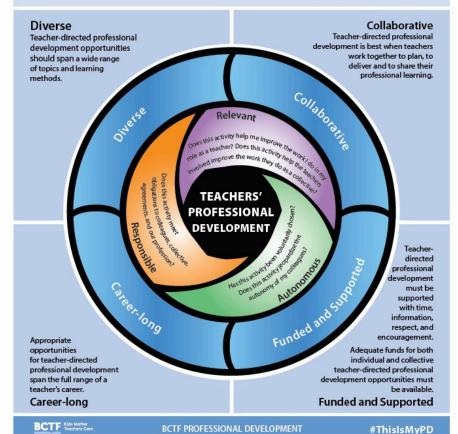
At the centre of the lens are teachers and their learning, both as a collective and as individuals. The term "teachers' professional development" is used to highlight its use both in thinking about individual PD and PD as a collective endeavor.

The Inner Ring: Key criteria

The inner ring consists of three factors that are necessary for an activity to be considered professional development. If any of the three are not present, then the activity should not be seen as professional development.

The Outer Ring: Necessary factors

The factors in the outer ring are critical to the success of teacher-directed professional development as a collective endeavor. In turn, this collective work provides the necessary conditions for all teachers to be able to create their own rich tapestries of appropriate professional learning.





Professional Standards for BC Educators



The following standards apply for all aspects of our profession, as well as for our use of professional development funding.

- **2.** Educators' individual conduct contributes to the perception of the profession as a whole.
- **7.** Educators engage in professional learning and reflective practice to support their professional growth.
- **8.** Educators honor the profession by supporting, mentoring or encouraging their educators.

<u>Link to Professional Standards for</u> BC Educators

Pro-D Opportunities







