

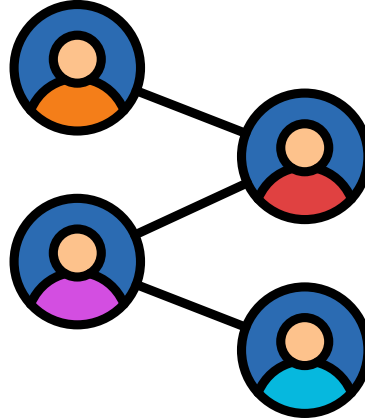


Pro-D Newsletter

Your 25/26 Pro-D Committee

FEBRUARY 2026

- Matt Huang - Pro-D Chair - SE
- Kathy Macfarlane - DTA 1st VP
- Elen Nikas - SA
- Luana Foulkes - SH
- Louise O'Brein - NG
- Leanne McCutcheon - SA
- Josie Zahn - BG



A Note from the Pro-D Chair...

Time seems to be passing by rather quickly this year. I did a double take when I was in the office on the first day of December, surprised that we're already in the last month of the calendar year.

This year, the DTA PD Committee welcomed two new members: Leanne McCutcheon and Josie Zahn. They, alongside continuing members Kathy Macfarlane, Elen Nikas, Louise O'Brien, and Luana Foulkes, have been providing their experiences and perspectives in our committee meetings. As always, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation towards them and DTA Administrative Assistant Brianna Redwood for all her help and support in ensuring that we're able to support our members' Professional Development.

This is my second year as PD Chair, and while I'm getting used to some aspects of my responsibilities (the mountain of PSA Day Applications seemed less daunting this year), there are still some hiccups. We at the DTA Office look over the information of all workshops before approving them, and sometimes, the information we can access is only a general outline of the conference that may not show the details of the workshops that teachers will be able to access to enhance their pedagogy, particularly when they are conferences we might not be aware of. To prevent your application from being wrongly denied, please submit supplemental information, especially on the workshops/breakout sessions that you have registered for, alongside your application. Otherwise, there's a strong possibility that your application will be denied and you'll have to go through the appeal process.

Matt Huang,
DTA Pro-D Chair

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Policy Changes



During the November DTA PD Meeting we discussed potential policy changes. Three items were on the agenda:

1. Hotel Cap
2. Fieldtrip Previews and Entry Fees using PD Funds
3. Automatic Approval of PSA Conferences.

After discussion on each of these items, we voted on proposed motions. For item 1), the hotel rate cap is now \$300/night/member, an increase from \$200. For item 2), we have decided on no changes to the current policy. For item 3), we have decided to automatically approve applications for PSA Day Conferences put on by a PSA relevant to a teacher's current teaching load. The intention is to try it for the 2026-2027 school year and the committee will meet to review this policy change after the 2026 October PSA Day.

Have you attended a conference or completed a course...



and not yet received your reimbursement? Please send your receipts to brianna@deltateachers.org



School Pro-D Funds



On your regular PD application forms, there is a box for you to input the school/district funding provided. While past practice has been for principals to provide approximately \$50 per teacher for PD funding in addition to the funding one would receive to the DTA, in recent years I've been seeing more and more principals redirecting this fund to the school PD committees to spend on refreshments, food, presenters, and so on.

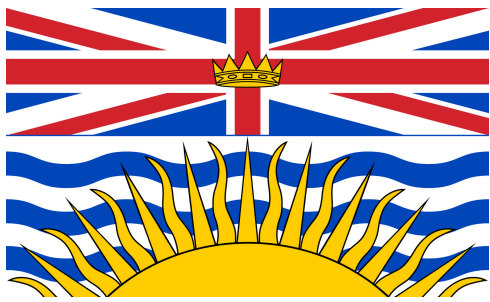
I know of a few instances where the school PD committee wasn't able to fully use the fund by the end of the fiscal year, and the principal redirected the money towards other items instead. If you're at one of the schools where the principal is no longer providing funding for PD workshops, consider crafting a staff committee recommendation to obtain information on the use of these funds, and depending on the preferences of the school staff, recommend to your principal how to divide it towards funding for workshops and funding for the school PD committee.

What is the PD Fund?



The PD fund is financed by the District, not by your DTA/BCTF fees. Under the collective agreement, the funding formula provides an amount equivalent to a half-day TTOC per FTE as of October 31 plus the number of TTOCs as of October 31. As you can imagine, this does not fully cover the cost of a full-day workshop or release time.

As a result, the fund is administered as a shared pool. Members may apply to the DTA for access, and it is governed by policies established and fairly administered by the PD Committee. For the same reason, co-funding support from schools is greatly appreciated.



Provincial Pro-D Policy



BCTF workshops for professional development chairs always bring up Bill 11, the Education Statutes Amendment Act (2015). Among many things, it builds “a framework for continuing professional development.” Even though it’s been around for a decade, it has never been repealed, and the BCTF always cautions that a provincial government could eventually use it to mandate teacher PD.

In fact, this school year, I’ve experienced a rollercoaster of emotions at four different BCTF events regarding the provincial government mandating PD. In August, during the BCTF Summer Conference, I learned that BC’s Education Minister Lisa Beare sent a letter to the BC Teachers’ Council (BCTC) to investigate ways to tie professional development to certification. My mind immediately went to the worst-case scenario, that we might end up like certain US jurisdictions where teachers must attend government-sponsored PD events in order to maintain certification.

Then, during Fall Zones in October, I heard that the BCTC is pushing back, and that the discussion is only for uncertified teachers using PD to obtain certification.

Then, during the Fall Representative Assembly in November, I was told that this is still a looming issue that could affect all teachers (and not just uncertified teachers). A BCTC ad-hoc committee was formed to investigate this, and their next meeting will be in January.

Finally, in January at the Winter Fall Representative Assembly, I was told that the BCTC will no longer be exploring mandating professional development for teachers.

Although the threat seems to have passed for now, the possibility of government mandated PD seems to ever loom in the background, and this particular case highlights the importance of understanding the work of the BCTC, which you can read about here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/boards-commissions-tribunals/bctc>.

Pro-D Opportunities

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

art
BRITISH COLUMBIA
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

bcfta
BC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

mypita

Whistler

2026 APRIL 17 HILTON WHISTLER RESORT

Leyton Schnellert
• Engaging All Learners in the Middle Years
• Project-based Learning: Integrating Curriculum and Competency Development

Plus
Hands-on English Language Arts and Visual Art Workshops for Classroom Teachers

Register at mypita.ca

Early bird rates until March 15
Limited seats.

Mountain photo: Mark Dornth, Unsplash

Registration:
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/mypita-2026-spring-conference-registration-1901738734749>



Pro-D Opportunities Cont...



 NETWORKS OF INQUIRY
AND INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

2026 NOIE Symposium

Strong Roots - Rising Up

May 8 | 8:30 - 5:00pm
May 9 | 8:30 - 12:15pm

 The Westin Wall Centre
Richmond, BC

If you're inspired to learn about nature-based education, eager to spark curiosity, committed to supporting Indigenous learners, and driven to advance equity, quality, and instructional excellence, then join us at the NOIE Symposium!

For more information:
www.noie.ca/symposium



HIGHLIGHTS

Ron Berger (author of *Leaders of Their Own Learning* and founder of Expeditionary Learning)

Leona Prince, Anne Tenning, and Jody Billingsley presenting on *Lessons from Spic'n - A Collaborative Journey Grounded in Story, Identity, Land, and Shared Vision*

Jo Chrona (co-author of *Sagaytgawdi: Grounding Assessment in Indigenous Knowledges to Support Equity and Well-being*)

Kath Murdoch (author of *Power of Inquiry* and leader in inquiry-based education)

Interactive Sessions: Dive into nature-based and Indigenous education, assessment, math, literacy, story workshop and more —featuring educators from BC and across the globe!

Fun & Community: Laugh, connect and stretch your thinking with hosts Tashi Kirincic and Lori Burger. Consider new perspectives with Jillian Lewis who will also keep the energy high as DJ Grooveheart.

Registration: <https://noie.ca/2026-noie-symposium/>



The BCTF is hosting a New Teachers' Conference in Kelowna on May 8-9, 2026. The conference is designed specifically for teachers and teachers teaching on call in their first five years of teaching, as well as teacher candidates. Visit this link to register: <https://www.newteachersconference.ca/2026kelowna/#registration>.