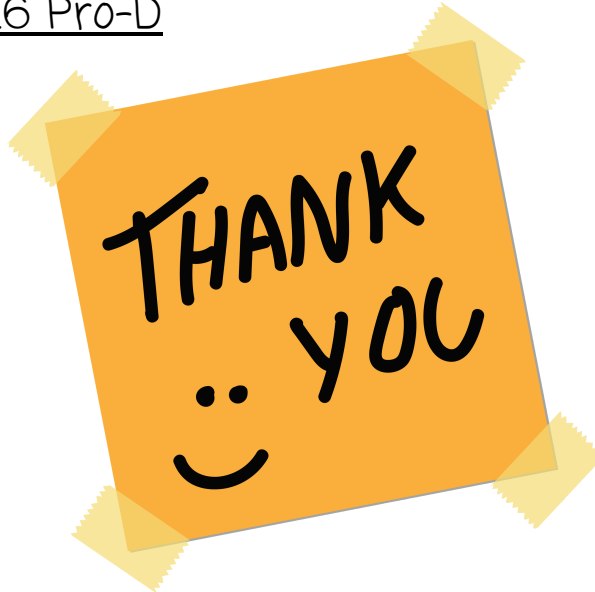


Pro-D Newsletter

A BIG thank you to the 25/26 Pro-D Committee

JUNE 2026

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



A Note from the Pro-D Chair.

Yet another year has gone by with me in the PD Chair Position. Either due to more experience, or fewer people traveling for their PSA Day PD, this year's mountain of PSA Day applications seemed a lot less daunting. As always I will thank the numerous people who without their help would make this position far more difficult than it is: DTA Table Officers Alison Kerr, Kathy Macfarlane, and Cherie Nagra, DTA Office Manager Jane Randazzo, and the DTA PD Committee: Elen Nikas, Leanne McCutcheon, Louise O'Brien, Josie Zahn, and Luana Foulkes. Next year the PD Committee will be joined by both new and returning teachers, and I look forward to their perspectives at committee meetings. Currently, there is still a member-at-large position open, and an Adult Educator position; any interested teachers should send their name to the DTA Office so they can be elected at a Staff Representative Assembly in the fall.

Of course, my list of thank yous isn't complete without a big shout-out to Brianna Redwood, the DTA Administrative Assistant whose main responsibilities (but not all, her ability to take on so many tasks is amazing) involve PD Applications and reimbursement. Throughout my two years working with her, she has definitely streamlined the PD process, and she is responsible for spearheading a very exciting change for the reimbursement process happening soon...

Cheers,
Matt Huang,
DTA Pro-D Chair

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New Maximums

The DTA PD Committee sets the maximums for the next school year during the May PD Meeting. After reviewing next year's budget, we have increased both the regular PD and credit courses maximum amounts by \$200. Due to the increase in usage of the self-directed PD, we have increased the maximum applications from 15 this year to 20 next year.



Regular PD	\$1000/member/year
Credit Courses	\$1700/member/year
Self-Directed	1 day/member/year max 20 apps for the entire membership

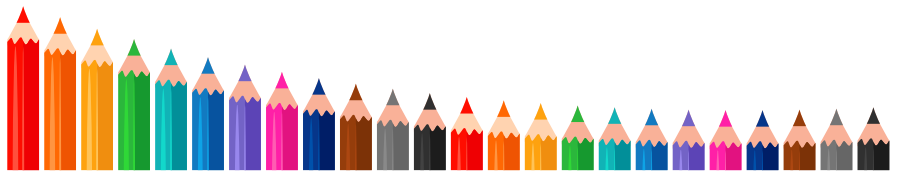


E-Transfers

At my first Summer Conference three years ago where I was attending as an alternate for our then-PD chair, I heard other locals providing PD reimbursement in the form of e-transfers rather than mailing cheques. As an "older millennial" who has experienced cheques but prefer digital alternatives, I was excited to bring up this possibility for the DTA, only to find out that fees for e-transfers were too high for the DTA's financial institution then.

Three years since, our wonderful administrative assistant Brianna Redwood informed me that our financial institution's policies have changed, and now it is economically feasible to switch to e-transfers as our primary method of reimbursement. I was unable to contain my excitement when we discussed this at a PD Committee meeting, and we quickly voted in favour of switching to e-transfers as our predominant form of reimbursement. Brianna is currently looking into how to best implement this, and we will update you once we have a system in place.

That said, if you still prefer cheques for whatever reason, once the system is in place we will provide people an opportunity to opt-out of e-transfers. More details to follow.



District Day is back in February 2027! For those new(ish) to the district, District Day is a Professional Development (PD) Day planned in conjunction between the DTA, CUPE, and the District, where staff from all sites get together and attend keynotes and workshops. While in the past District Day has been once every two years, the district passed a budget in the previous school year to change it to once every three years; the previous one was February 2024 at South Delta Secondary School.

There are a few changes planned for District Day in 2027:

1. In a survey given to staff, the overwhelming majority voted in favour two locations: one with an elementary focus and one with a secondary focus. This would alleviate past issues regarding parking.
2. Due to low attendance in the previous District Day (especially in the afternoon), the district is considering taking attendance. As this is a paid workday, the DTA would not be able to push back on this. Details of this was given in the Apr 5th 2024 Weekly Update:

DTA WEEKLY UPDATE – April 5, 2024

DISTRICT DAY CONCERN

Some more data came back to the DTA from the District Committee around afternoon attendance. Although all workshops were mostly well attended in the morning, there was significant drop off in the afternoon, resulting in some presenters (many of them being our colleagues) having as low as 2 or 3 staff show up. And, as there were wait lists for some workshops, repeat sessions were added, only to have the many who signed up, not show up, either in the morning or afternoon.

Are we just trying to guilt you about not attending? No/but- This may encourage the District to start forcing people to sign in for their workshop, which they could get away with since they are paying you for the whole day. And it's hard for the DTA to push back when all our training sessions where we pay for release require teachers to sign in.

3. For both monetary and afternoon attendance purposes, the current shape of the day has two 30-minute snack periods, workshops ending at 2pm, followed by lunch on your own.

I look forward to seeing you at District Day in February 2027.



New Teachers' Conference Changes for Next Year

On the topic of changing the frequency for something due to budget, the BCTF New Teachers' Conference (<https://www.newteachersconference.ca/2026vancouver/>) is going from two regional events a year (Vancouver and Kelowna this year) to just one a year. It's a conference for teachers and TTOCs in their first five years of teaching, as well as teacher candidates.

The DTA PD Committee sets aside funding for 10 applications specifically for the New Teachers' Conference, so if you're interested, please apply! The Conference is scheduled for February 27th, 2027. More details will be shared via the DTA Weekly once we have more info.

APPLY

Pro-D Issues in Nearby Locals

Part of my responsibilities as PD Chair is to attend BCTF Zone Meetings, where I meet with PD Chairs from nearby locals to discuss issues pertaining to PD. While PD practices differ greatly across locals due to different policies and/or collective agreement language, we also discuss issues and brainstorm ideas that apply to all locals.

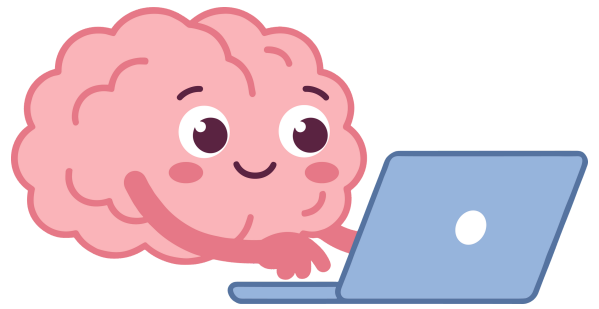
In the Spring Zone meeting, one nearby local PD Chair shared that they approved and reimbursed a teacher's PD excursion that had curricular relevancy, but their district deemed it to not be professional development. The district started a grievance process against the local, who then had to tighten their PD approval policies and process. This anecdote served as a cautionary tale to the rest of the PD Chairs. For all locals, the PD fund is from collective agreement language and provided by the district. Rubber stamping applications without verifying the authenticity and relevancy of PD applications could result in a grievance from the district, as we have seen in this particular local.

All PD Chairs have the common goal of ensuring that these funds are used responsibly by BC teachers. Applications will be denied if they do not meet the BCTF PD Lens, and if you feel that a denial was made in error, here in Delta we have a two-step appeal process where you first make your case to the DTA PD Committee in writing within 30 days of denial, and if that's still denied, you make your final case in writing to a special panel consisting of the DTA President and two members of the DTA Executive.



Pro-D Opportunities

School Based PD Ideas



One of the ways Delta differs from other locals is professional autonomy for professional development, which I talked about frequently in previous PD newsletters. Delta school-based PD Committees typically plan for all PD days except for the October PSA Day, District Day, and other cross-school initiatives such as the Anti-Oppression Symposium for secondary teachers this February, which can be a lot of work. Here are some suggestions for PD Committees as they start thinking about planning next year's school-based PDs:

Book a BCTF Workshop

BCTF Workshops can be booked for free, and there are a wide variety of workshop topics ranging from Truth and Reconciliation to climate education. At union events, I heard great things about the Blanket Exercise Workshop and the Professional Boundaries Workshop. My school booked the former this time, and my experience matched its great reputation; my school is looking into the Professional Boundaries one for next year.

Guest Presenters

Sometimes, independent presenters reach out to PD Chairs advertising their services, and other times, we reach out to presenters who have a great reputation from other locals' PD Events. Here are two that I have encountered this year:

Rashda Munawar

Rashda is a Langley teacher and a children's book author (*Think BIG: Believe, Achieve, and Soar High*) who presented at several local's PD events such as Langley, Chilliwack, and Kelowna. Their workshops are geared towards elementary teachers and they can be contacted at rashzee@rashzee.com.

Further reading on Rashda includes their article in BCTF's Teacher Magazine (<https://www.teachermag.ca/post/promoting-growth-mindset-and-type-1-diabetes-inclusion-in-children-s-literature>) and their website (<https://www.rashzee.com/>)

Dr. Jo-ann Archibald

Dr. Archibald is a local Indigenous Studies scholar who gives talks on the importance of Indigenous story work in the classroom. Here is her brief write-up to me when I reached out to her:

For many years, I have been working with K-12 teachers using this storied approach in areas such as culturally responsive math education, and Indigenous traditional and life experience stories for various grade levels and subject areas. I find with school districts; my topic area works best if some teachers are already engaged with Indigenous Storywork approaches and/or are very interested in storied pedagogy. The majority of teachers have been in the elementary grades, although there are some secondary teachers who have participated.

Further reading on Dr. Archibald include her website (<https://indigenoustorywork.com/>) and she can be reached at indigenoustorywork@gmail.com

Pro-D Opportunities Cont...



ORFF SCHULWERK LEVELS

LEVELS I, II, & III
August 10 - 21, 2026

INTRODUCTION TO ORFF SCHULWERK
August 4 - 8, 2026

Location
John Knox Christian School - Elementary
Campus in Burnaby, B.C.
8260 13th Ave, Burnaby, BC V3N 2G5

OUR INSTRUCTORS

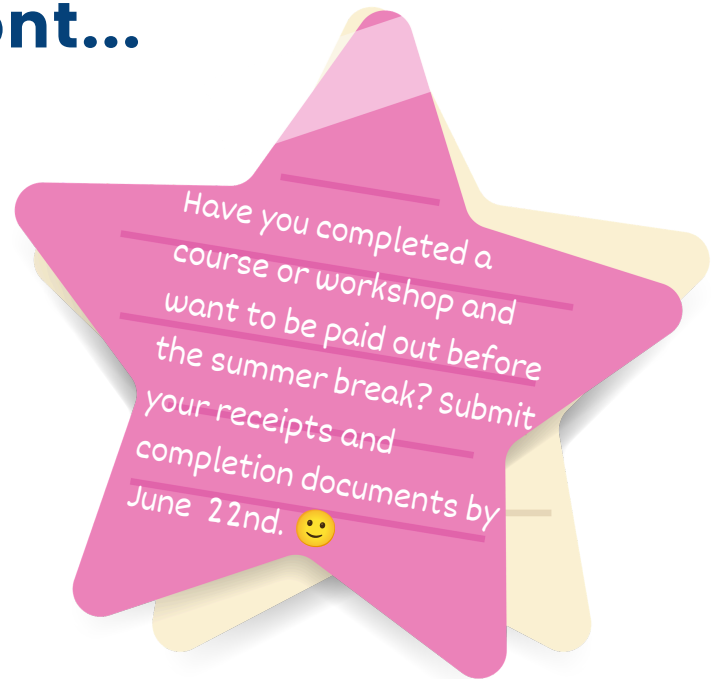
 Pam Hetrick Level I, Recorder I Course Director	 Bethany Ellsworth Introduction to Orff, Levels I, II, & III Movement
 Karen Epp Recorder, Levels II & III	 Amanda Ciavarelli Levels II & III

Early Bird Pricing

Level I, Level II and Level III*
• Carl Orff Canada Member: \$985
• Non-Member: \$1060

Introduction to Orff Schulwerk
• Carl Orff Canada Member: \$485
• Non-Member: \$560

Early Bird Pricing Ends
May 31st, 2026
For more information, please visit our website by following the QR code.
Register now at :
bcorff.ca



A Final Note from the Pro-D Chair

We get a longer summer vacation this year, due to how the calendar lines up so that we don't need to work up until June 30th, as well as the fact that a late Labour Day means a later September start. I hope that this extra time will allow everyone to have a restful and rejuvenating summer (and if not, we also get a longer Spring Break in 2027 due to Good Friday happening during Spring Break, and Easter Monday happening the day we normally would be back to work).

Those who are thinking of taking advantage of PD opportunities in the summer should know that the DTA's fiscal year is July 1st – June 30th, so if you've maxed out your PD funds for the 2025-2026 school year, you can apply for funding for PD that takes place on or after July 1st. Applications for regular PD must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the conference/workshop, and applications for credit courses must be submitted before the course begins. The DTA Office is closed for the summer between June 29th and September 7th.

Yours in solidarity,
Matt Huang (He/Him), DTA Pro-D Chair