



January 22, 2025

In this edition of the BCTF News:

- [BCTF Provincial Bargaining Team has begun their work](#)
- [Lesson plans and stories from the Jan/Feb edition of \*Teacher\* magazine are online](#)
- [Last chance to register for the Vancouver New Teachers' Conference](#)
- [BCTF President meets with Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care](#)
- [Canadian Teachers' Federation International Collaboration for Education program](#)
- [Ministry of Education and Child Care scholarship committees](#)
- [Ministry of Agriculture and Food's BC Agriculture and Food Systems Teaching and Learning Stories Development](#)
- [The BC Teachers' Council Annual Report](#)
- [Upcoming webinar series for mental wellness](#)
- [Free K–12 environmental-science workshops](#)
- [BC Child Poverty Report Card](#)
- [Local Hospitality savings for BCTF members](#)

### **BCTF Provincial Bargaining Team has begun their work**

Earlier this month, the Federation's Provincial Bargaining Team arrived at the BCTF building to begin their full-time work preparing for the upcoming round of negotiations. You can learn about the members of the team and their work [here](#). Throughout the bargaining process, the BCTF will post regular updates on the [Bargaining Updates and Information page](#) on the BCTF website. You can also search "bargaining" on the website to see the latest information. Remember, you need to be logged in to the website to view these updates, which are confidential to BCTF members. [The first update has been posted](#), which outlines some basic processes and addresses some frequently asked questions. When there is a bargaining update with time-sensitive or significant information, members will be alerted by a special email. Other times, items in this biweekly BCTF News will notify members when new updates have been posted.

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### **Lesson plans and stories from the Jan/Feb edition of *Teacher* magazine are online**

How can you [teach for peace](#)? What is [Edible Education](#)? And how can we [understand GenAI through Indigenous ways of knowing](#)? Check out the [latest edition](#) of *Teacher* magazine for these stories and more. You can also get to know your [Bargaining Team](#) and read more stories from your colleagues across the province.

## **Last chance to register for the Vancouver New Teachers' Conference**

Registration closes on Sunday, January 26, for the Vancouver New Teachers' Conference (NTC), which will take place on **February 8, 2025**. The NTC has a great lineup of workshops and speakers to choose from. For more details about the conference, visit the [Vancouver NTC website](#).

Registration is also open for the Nanaimo NTC, taking place on **May 10, 2025**. For more information about this conference, visit the [Nanaimo NTC website](#). Teachers can register for both the Vancouver and Nanaimo NTCs, or just one.

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## **BCTF President meets with Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care**

Last week in Victoria, the BCTF President and Vice-Presidents met with the newly appointed Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care Kaye Krishna.

At their meeting, they discussed with the Deputy Minister issues pertaining to recruitment and retention and our collaborative work force strategy. Additionally, the Deputy Minister provided information about the creation of the newly established Ministry of Infrastructure. She shared that all staff from the Ministry of Education and Child Care responsible for capital projects, along with their budgets, are in the process of transitioning to the Ministry of Infrastructure. She clarified that this will not affect the school board capital grants. This information is helpful for us as we will now plan further meetings with the Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure, to discuss capital planning.

More meetings are planned with the Deputy Minister, and we will continue to update you all.

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## **Canadian Teachers' Federation International Collaboration for Education program**

The BCTF is seeking two members to participate as BCTF representatives to the Canadian Teachers' Federation International Collaboration for Education program. [Visit the online posting](#) to learn more about the work of this program, and for application instructions. The deadline to apply is **Friday, January 24, 2025**.

## **Ministry of Education and Child Care scholarship committees**

The BCTF is seeking 10 public school teacher representatives to participate as BCTF representatives to two Ministry of Education and Child Care committees tasked with selecting graduating student provincial scholarship winners for the 2024–25 school year. For more details and to apply, visit the [online posting](#). The deadline to apply is **Friday, January 31, 2025**.

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## **Ministry of Agriculture and Food's BC Agriculture and Food Systems Teaching and Learning Stories Development**

This project aims to gather a team of teachers to create teaching and learning stories that focus on unbiased representation of all types of agriculture and food systems in BC. The BCTF is seeking 10 members to participate as BCTF representatives to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's development team for this resource. [Visit the online posting](#) for more information. The deadline to apply is **Friday, January 31, 2025**.

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## **The BC Teachers' Council Annual Report**

The [BC Teachers' Council \(BCTC\) Annual Report for 2023–24](#) is now available online. The report highlights the work of the BCTC between May 2023 and April 2024.

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## **Upcoming webinar series for mental wellness**

We are delighted to announce the return of Starling Minds' most popular initiative, the Mental Fitness program—Deeper Connections: How to Cultivate Happier, Authentic Relationships, presented by Tara Achkar, Starling Minds Mental Fitness Coach. Join us on February 18 and 25 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. to explore how emotional intelligence can transform your relationships.

The webinar series will cover strategies to:

- learn to recognize and manage emotions more effectively.
- enhance empathy to better understand and connect with others.
- improve communication and conflict-resolution skills.
- strengthen and nurture relationships with emotional resilience.

These interactive sessions allow participants to engage in dedicated Q&A segments after each session and connect with the presenter for personalized insights. All sessions are recorded and accessible on the Starling Minds platform if you are unable to attend a session.

How do I sign up?

If you have already registered for Starling Minds, [register](#) for Deeper Connections: How to Cultivate Happier, Authentic Relationships. If you are not currently a Starling Minds user, use your BCTF Member ID ([log in here to locate Member ID](#)) and the access code **BCTFMEMBER** or **BCTFFAMILY** to register for the [Starling Mental Fitness program](#). You will be able to register for the workshop once you have entered the program.

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### **Free K–12 environmental-science workshops**

The Institute of Urban Ecology and Douglas College offer free environmental-science workshops for K–12 classes across the province. In-person workshops are only available for BC school districts 36 to 41 and 43 to 45. Online, synchronous and asynchronous workshops are available to anyone outside this region. All workshops include a hands-on, participatory learning activity, such as how to build a bee house. For more information please [see the online brochure](#). All workshop requests must be made through the [online booking system](#). Email [jue@douglascollege.ca](mailto:jue@douglascollege.ca) if you have any questions.

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### **BC Child Poverty Report Card**

The [2024 BC Child Poverty Report Card](#) has been released and includes a special feature: “Between Survival and Dreams: The Resilience of BC’s Single Moms,” authored by acclaimed BC journalist Daphne Bramham.

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### **Local Hospitality savings for BCTF members**

The BCTF is proud to partner with Local Hospitality to provide our very own member travel discount program, provided for the exclusive access of our members and their families. Search for discounts on hotels, car rentals, and U.S. entertainment. Our savings are as much as 50%, and average 10–20% below market rates.

Book a hotel, car rental, or entertainment package before March 31, 2025, and you could win back your purchase. Winners will receive a full refund on their travel booking from Local Hospitality.