

BCTF News



Kids matter

Teachers care

September 29, 2021

September 30 and beyond: Committing to the hard and ongoing work of reconciliation

This Thursday, September 30 is a historic day—the first-ever National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As educators, we hold a great deal of responsibility for teaching the truth and modelling reconciliation for our students. Though this is of course a shared responsibility, we would particularly like to acknowledge the heavy burden carried by Indigenous teachers and support staff in our schools in guiding and supporting the work of reconciliation.

In this [open letter](#), BCTF President Teri Mooring invites all members to join her in committing deeply to the ongoing work of reconciliation, and reminds us that in order to do this work, we must listen and learn with humility and respect. The letter also includes a collection of recommended resources, community events, and actions to help advance reconciliation on September 30 and beyond, prepared thanks to contributions from BCTF staff Gail Stromquist and Chris Stewart, and members of the BCTF Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee.

Share your feedback on the new K–12 Student Reporting Policy

The Ministry of Education has released a draft form of a new K–12 Student Reporting Policy. This new draft policy includes significant changes to the current reporting order. From now until November 5, 2021, teachers, parents, and students can rate components of the draft policy and provide written comments and feedback. It is important that teachers' voices are heard and acknowledged.

Under this new policy, student progress for Grades K–9 would be communicated using descriptive feedback and the Provincial Proficiency Scale. For students in Grades 10–12, progress would be communicated using descriptive feedback, letter grades and percentages. The four-point Provincial Proficiency Scale may also be used in Grades 10–12.

The proposed policy would require a minimum of five reporting events each school year: four learning updates throughout the school year (two of which must be written reports) and one written summary of learning at the end of the school year.

It is important we share our feedback with the Ministry of Education over the next six weeks to ensure our perspectives and concerns are heard. An updated policy is expected to be released in January 2022, to be implemented in the 2022–23 school year.

We strongly encourage you to participate in the Ministry's feedback cycle and share any concerns or feedback you have on this new reporting policy. [Click here](#) to complete the feedback form.

FSA Campaign webpage is now active

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is a divisive and unhelpful standardized test that takes away from valuable classroom learning time and worsens existing inequities. The BCTF has created several campaign materials to help teachers and parents learn more about the FSA. Visit the new [FSA webpage](#) to access the BCTF's statement on the FSA, links to the withdrawal form, videos from BCTF President Teri Mooring, and commentary from teachers on why we oppose the FSA.

You can also sign and share [this petition](#) to show your support for cancelling the FSA.

Opportunities for members

Committee for Action on Social Justice—Antiracism Action Group

The committee makes recommendations to the BCTF Executive Committee on social justice issues and BCTF social justice policy; promotes and assists in the development of local, zonal, and provincial networks of teachers on social justice issues; creates resources for teachers and locals; assists locals and zones in developing general social justice programs, projects, and events; and works on developing links with other unions, community groups, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and others. For more details and to apply, [click here](#). The deadline to apply is **October 14, 2021**.

Adult Education Advisory Committee

The Adult Education Advisory Committee has a vacancy for a two-year term position. This committee advises the BCTF Executive Committee on all matters related to adult education. For more details and to apply, visit the [online posting](#). The deadline to apply is **October 14, 2021**.

Observers at the 2021 Bargaining Conference

The 2021 Bargaining Conference will be held virtually from October 28 to 30, 2021. To support the creation of an equitable and inclusive union, the BCTF is inviting members who would not otherwise be attending the 2021 BCTF Bargaining Conference to attend as an observer (without voting rights). The additional spaces for observers are as follows:

- 10 observers who are members in their first five years of teaching
- 10 observers who are members who identify as Black, Indigenous/Aboriginal, and/or persons of colour
- 10 observers who are members and work as TTOCs.

For more information and application instructions, [click here](#). The deadline to apply is **October 18, 2021**.

Employment opportunity: Assistant Director, Professional and Social Issues Division

The Professional and Social Issues Division has a vacancy for a full-time continuing position as Assistant Director. This role is responsible for co-ordinating the Federation's work in curriculum and education policy matters, including work with the Provincial Specialist Association (PSAs) of the BCTF. For more information, view the [online posting](#). The deadline to apply is **October 12, 2021**.

New WorksafeBC Help Prevent Violence in Schools webpage is now active

The new [WorksafeBC Help Prevent Violence in Schools webpage](#) includes tools and resources to help prevent workplace violence. On the webpage, you can find a video message from K–12 sector leaders (including BCTF President Teri Mooring), posters, documents, and more.