



# BC Teachers' Federation

## THESA Survey, May 2009

### Introduction

There is currently very little information available about the state of Home Economics Education in British Columbia. The intent of this survey is to gather information that will support Home Economics Education in a variety of ways - for example, within a particular school, for proposing improvements to Home Economics Education with post-secondary institutions, etc. THESA, the Teachers of Home Economics Specialist Association, is interested in determining how many teachers teach Home Economics and Home Economics-related courses, what the needs are for professional development, the supply and demand for Home Economics teachers, how many students enrol in Home Economics courses and the composition of those classes, and what challenges are faced in our workplace.

By completing this survey, you and other Home Economics teachers in BC's public schools will be assisting THESA in forming a more complete "picture" of the state of Home Economics Education in the province that will be of interest to the BCTF, to BCTF members who teach in elective areas, to post-secondary institutions, and to our government.

If you are a retired Home Economics teacher, you do not need to complete this survey.

Jenny Garrels, President  
Teachers of Home Economics Specialist Association

### A. Demographics

1. Gender

- Female
- Male

2. In what age category are you?

- under 25

- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-59
- 60 and over

3a. In which school district do you most often teach/work this school year (2008-09)?

SD#

3b. Complete name of school district (not initials):

SD name

4. In your view, does your school/workplace mainly serve a socio-economic environment considered:

- low
- middle
- high
- mixed

5a. By the end of this school year, for how many years will you have been teaching?

- less than 1 year
- 1-4
- 5-9
- 10-14
- 15-10
- 20-24
- 25 and over

5b. For how many years have you been teaching Home Economics?

- less than 1 year
- 1-4
- 5-9
- 10-14
- 15-10
- 20-24
- 25 and over

6. Regarding your retirement plans, please choose the answer that best completes this statement: "I am planning to retire in \_\_\_\_\_ years."

- 1-2
- 3-5
- 6-8
- 9 or more

n/a (I am not currently considering retiring.)

7. Please indicate which of the following applies to you:

- I teach in one school/workplace.
- I teach in more than one school/workplace.

8. Are you a member of the Teachers of Home Economics Specialist Association (THESA)?

- Yes
- No

## B. Classes taught

In this section we'd like you to identify the Home Economics classes you teach, and the grade level(s), class size, and class composition of each class.

(9a) Food Studies, Textile Studies, Family Studies

(9b) *other* Home Economics-related courses you teach, e.g., Tourism, Planning, Child Development, BAA courses that don't fall in the above categories, etc.

9a. Classes and class characteristics:

Block	Course name and grade level (s)	Number of students in class	Number of students with an IEP	Number of ESL students
Food Studies 1				
Food Studies 2				
Food Studies 3				
Food Studies 4				
Food Studies 5				
Food Studies 6				
Food Studies 7				

Block	Course name and grade level (s)	Number of students in class	Number of students with an IEP	Number of ESL students
Textile Studies 1				
Textile Studies 2				
Textile Studies 3				

Textile Studies 4				
Textile Studies 5				
Textile Studies 6				
Textile Studies 7				

<b>Block</b>	<b>Course name and grade level (s)</b>	<b>Number of students in class</b>	<b>Number of students with an IEP</b>	<b>Number of ESL students</b>
Family Studies 1				
Family Studies 2				
Family Studies 3				
Family Studies 4				
Family Studies 5				
Family Studies 6				
Family Studies 7				

9b. Other Home Ec-related classes and class characteristics:

<b>Other Home Ec-related course(s)</b>	<b>Course name and grade level (s)</b>	<b>Number of students in class</b>	<b>Number of students with an IEP</b>	<b>Number of ESL students</b>
Other 1				
Other 2				
Other 3				
Other 4				
Other 5				
Other 6				
Other 7				

### C. Type of contract

10. Is your employment contract: (choose one only)

- full-time continuing [[Goto question 12a](#)]
- full-time term [[Goto question 12a](#)]
- part-time continuing [[Goto question 11a](#)]
- part-time term [[Goto question 11a](#)]

- Teacher Teaching on Call (TTOC) [Goto question 12a]
- TTOC plus part-time [Goto question 12a]

11a. What is the FTE (full-time equivalent) of your part-time position? (note: 1.0=full-time, 0.5=half-time, etc.)

part-time FTE=

11b. Which ONE of the following statements best relates to your part-time situation?

- I prefer to work part-time for personal reasons.
- I would prefer full-time, or more hours than I currently teach.
- I work part-time to manage my workload.
- I work part-time because of illness/disability, but I am not in a rehabilitation program.
- I work part-time because I am in an accommodation or a rehabilitation program.
- Other (please specify)

12a. What FTE do you teach Home Economics or Home Economics-related courses?

FTE for Home Ec=

12b. What FTE do you teach other subjects?

FTE for other subjects=

13a. Which of the following best describes your situation?

- I would like to teach more Home Economics.
- I would like to teach less Home Economics.
- I would like my Home Economics assignment to stay the same.

13b. Comments

## D. Education and Professional Development

14. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (choose one)

- Bachelor's degree with teacher education program (PDP, etc.)
- University certificate or diploma above bachelor level (PB+15, to achieve pay Category 5+)
- Master's degree
- Doctorate
- Other (please specify)

15a. Did your teacher education include a Home Economics specialization?

- Yes  
 No [Goto question 16]

If YES,

15b. Please indicate your specialization:

- B.Ed. Home Economics major  
 B.Ed. Home Economics plus another subject (dual concentration)  
 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

16. If you have completed a Master's or Doctorate degree, were your courses and/or thesis/major paper related to Home Economics?

- Yes  
 No

17a. Are you currently enrolled in an education program?

- Yes  
 No [Goto question 18a]

If YES,

17b. Please indicate which of the following describes your current education program:

- University certificate or diploma above bachelor level (PB+15, to achieve pay Category 5+)  
 Master's degree  
 Doctorate  
 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

17c. Is your current education program Home Economics-related?

- Yes  
 No

18a. During the 2008-09 school year, in which of the following have you participated, and/or do you expect to participate, and which are Home Economics-related?

	Participating/expect to participate		Home Economics-related	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
On-campus university education program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-campus university programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other university/college course(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On-campus Diploma program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-campus Diploma program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

School-based professional development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
District-based professional development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
PSA (Provincial Specialist Association) days	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Self-directed professional development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify in 18b.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
None	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18b. If you indicated "Other" in 18a., above, please specify what that "other" is:

Other

18c. If you are not participating in any Home Economics-related programs or courses in this school year, which of the following reasons apply? (check all that apply)

- Not interested right now
- Family obligations
- Financial restraints
- Lack of access to programs
- I am taking other courses not related to Home Economics
- Other

19. For the future, in what type of Home Economics-related programs, courses, and/or professional development are you most interested? (check all that apply)

- On-campus university education program
- Off-campus university programs
- Other university/college course
- On-campus Diploma program
- Off-campus Diploma program
- School-based professional development
- District-based professional development
- PSA (Provincial Specialist Association) days
- Self-directed professional development
- Online courses or professional development
- Other (please specify)
- None

20. If someone who wanted to become a Home Economics teacher asked you, could you tell her or him where the appropriate programs exist?

- Yes
- No

## E. Teaching and learning conditions

21. Please indicate how many hours (rounded to the nearest hour) you spend in an average week, **in addition to your regular work day**, on any of the following work-related tasks.

	Average hours per week
Working with students outside of class time	<input type="text"/>
Preparation of all types (e.g., shopping for textile- and foods- related supplies, lab set-up, clean-up, maintenance of equipment)	<input type="text"/>
Meetings (all types)	<input type="text"/>
Record-keeping through BCeSIS	<input type="text"/>
Administrative tasks, e.g., e-mail, attendance	<input type="text"/>
Extra-curricular, e.g., catering, fashion shows, etc.	<input type="text"/>
Fundraising	<input type="text"/>
Professional learning community or other collaboration	<input type="text"/>
Promoting awareness of Home Economics	<input type="text"/>

22a. Based on your experience as a Home Economics teacher, please respond to the following statements.

	Yes	No	n/a
The number of students in my Home Ec classes has increased over the last 5 years*.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The number of students with an IEP in my Home Ec classes has increased over the last 5 years*.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The number of ESL students in my Home Ec classes has increased over the last 5 years*.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The rooms in which I teach are adequate spaces for the number of students in my classes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a paid assistant(s) who helps with lab preparation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I use my own vehicle to transport Home Ec supplies.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am reimbursed for mileage when I shop for Home Ec supplies.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some of my car insurance costs are paid by my school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

district.				
-----------	--	--	--	--

\* Or since you started teaching Home Economics, if less than 5 years ago.

22b. Comments

23a. Please indicate your level of agreement/disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	n/a
The rooms in which I teach are adequately equipped.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have changed my Home Economics curriculum because the cost of supplies has increased.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have changed my Home Economics curriculum because of the decision not to charge fees.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My program has changed because prerequisites were removed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I use less hands-on, experiential learning approaches now than I did 5 years ago.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Healthy Schools Initiative is having a positive impact on my work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My school/workplace has experienced difficulties finding teachers teaching on call (TTOC) who have Home Economics qualifications.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My school/workplace has						

experienced difficulties in getting qualified Home Economics teachers to fill staff vacancies.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My school's/workplace's AO (s) is(are) supportive of Home Economics.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am able to access professional development opportunities related to Home Economics.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would like to access online professional development related to Home Economics.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would like to network more with other Home Economics teachers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 23b. Comments

## F. Views on teaching Home Economics

24a. Have you been teaching in the BC school system for the past 5 years?

- Yes  
 No [[Goto question 25a](#)]

If YES,

24b. Compared to 5 years ago, would you say that your **workload** has:

- increased  
 decreased  
 stayed the same  
 changed, but not necessarily increased or decreased

24c. Compared to 5 years ago, would you say that your **stress level** has:

- increased  
 decreased  
 stayed the same  
 changed, but not necessarily increased or decreased

24d. Compared to 5 years ago, would you say that your **job satisfaction** has:

- increased
- decreased
- stayed the same
- changed, but not necessarily increased or decreased

25a. Would you recommend teaching Home Economics as a career to others?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

25b. Comments

26a. Are you considering leaving teaching Home Economics for reasons other than retirement?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

26b. Comments

27. Please use this space to describe the most rewarding aspects of teaching Home Economics for you.

28. Please use this space to describe any concerns you have about Home Economics Education.

Thank you for assisting THESA with your survey responses.

© 2009 BC Teachers' Federation. All rights reserved.