

An invitation to Local Presidents and PD Chairpersons

Participate in one of eight Local/District PQT/Teacher Inquiry Projects: 2010-11

Consider how your local may support teacher inquiry as a viable, professional learning model. How can the local teachers' association lead and sustain this professional direction?

Current research and experience suggests that inquiry is a form of professional development that promotes deep, relevant personal learning within a community of teaching professionals. Its various process models support teachers' growth through reflection, collaborative conversation, and investigation into teaching practice. Action research groups, study groups, book study circles, conversation models, and dialogue on student work are examples of teacher inquiry. Inquiry into a current teaching and learning question or dilemma underpins all models.

This BCTF initiative aims to co-ordinate and to expand the Federation's ongoing work in teacher inquiry led through the BCTF's Program for Quality Teaching (PQT) and the Research and Technology Division. Two projects will be funded through the Research and Technology division.

Focus

Eight locals will be selected for involvement in the 2010-11 school year. BCTF PQT facilitators will facilitate the site groups which will meet five or six times during the year. Each of the eight inquiry groups will receive \$3,500 from the BCTF and a \$3500 matching grant from the local and/or district. The \$7,000 combined total is to cover all group costs, including TTOC time and on-site costs. Facilitators' time and travel/accommodation costs will be paid by the BCTF.

Teacher inquiry topics may fall within professional development such as supporting new teachers, critical thinking, curriculum changes, assessment practices, differentiated instruction, early learning, innovative teaching, or social justice. Two of the projects, funded by Research and Technology, **must** have a focus of diversity—either special needs inclusion or an aspect of social justice such as gender issues, Aboriginal education, antiracism, etc. The group members will determine questions and foci of the inquiry.

Project Criteria

Cost-sharing: the local must secure matching funds to the BCTF grant, preferably from the district, but matching funds may be derived from the local and/or district. BCTF provides facilitation, research support and publication opportunities through its *Teacher Inquirer* e-journal. Local/Districts provide \$3,500.00 to support release time for group meetings and on-site costs, which will be augmented by a \$3,500.00 matching PQT/Teacher Inquiry grant from the BCTF.

Eligibility: teams/groups of teachers (may include administrators and support personnel if appropriate)

Commitment:

- a. To provide a local project co-ordinator to arrange logistics for example room bookings, refreshments, etc.
- b. To form an ongoing group of 12 participants, available to attend a half or one-day orientation training and four half-day inquiry group sessions, between October 2010 and April/May 2010 (schedule to be mutually determined on a local basis).

Hosting: a final celebration and public reporting session, with a written report provided to the BCTF.

Note: Routine (ongoing) PQT and Research & Technology program work will continue. Contact jturner@bctf.ca (PQT) and cnaylor@bctf.ca (R & T).

c. Project Application Template

All written project applications must address the following areas:

- a. Focus—for the local/district PQT/Teacher Inquiry group, including maximum one page rationale. The focus may include a general theme and subtheme(s)/questions. Individual participants will have the choice of an inquiry question within the group's general theme or focus.
 - b. Criteria—a statement of commitment on how the criteria (listed above) will be met by the project. Include a description of how the project will be co-ordinated and organized by the local and a letter confirming a \$3,500 matching grant from the school district and/or local and district has been secured.
 - c. Group information—group members' names and/or description of the group selection process.
 - d. Project Co-ordinator—contact information for the project co-ordinator, for example name, role in the local, email address, phone number(s).
 - e. Proposed Timeline for the project—a draft timeline by months, subject to confirmation by the group and BCTF facilitator(s).
 - f. Any additional supporting information.
- d.** Inquiry project application process and timeline Interested locals should submit a proposal or a PQT/Teacher Inquiry Project application template to Jane Turner, PSID staff at jturner@bctf.ca by **Friday, September 24, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.**

Project applications will be considered by BCTF staff and a BCTF full-time table officer. Selection will be made based on a variety of criteria including: topic/rationale, geographic balance, and a demonstrated commitment to the inquiry process.

For further information on the projects

Please contact Jane Turner, PSID staff at jturner@bctf.ca 604-871-1871 or toll free at 1-800-663-9163 (local 1871).