

An invitation to PSAs Participate in one of two PSA– PQT/Teacher Inquiry Projects in 2010-11

Consider how your PSA may support teacher inquiry as a viable, professional learning model. How can the PSA 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, made possible through a grant from the BCTF PQT/Inquiry budget, aims to co-ordinate and to expand the Federation's ongoing work in teacher inquiry led by the BCTF's Program for Quality Teaching (PQT) and the Research and Technology Division.

Focus

Two PSAs 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 two PSA inquiry groups will receive \$5,000 to cover all costs, including TTOC time and travel/accommodation. Facilitators' time and travel/accommodation costs will be paid by the BCTF. Teacher inquiry topics may fall within professional development, social issues, curriculum, or into an issue linked to a specific teaching or learning focus. For example, possible inquiries may be: cultural diversity/inclusive classrooms, supporting new teachers, critical thinking, curriculum changes, assessment practices, differentiated instruction, early learning, innovative teaching, etc. The group members will determine questions and foci.

Project Criteria

Eligibility: PSA executives, members of LSA chapters, and PSA members. Inquiry group members may be from different locals but all costs must be met from the \$5000 grant or with additional funds from the PSA. All members of the inquiry group must be PSA and BCTF members. Please show how your application's goals will be met within the \$5,000 budget or with additional funds from the PSA.

Commitment: to an ongoing inquiry group of up to 12 participants, available to attend a half- or one-day orientation training, and 4 to 5 additional inquiry group sessions, between October 2010 and May 2011 (schedule to be mutually determined).

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

Inquiry project application process and timeline

Interested PSAs should submit a proposal using the following *PSA/PQT/Teacher Inquiry Project application template* to Jane Turner, PSID staff at jturner@bctf.ca or fax 604-871-2286 by **Friday September 24, 2010, 5:00 p.m.**

All proposals must address the following:

1. general focus topic for the PSA PQT/ Teacher Inquiry group and the rationale for this topic selection.
2. a statement of commitment to the criteria (listed above), including a description of how this will be co-ordinated by the PSA.
3. project co-ordinator contact information: The project co-ordinator should write the application, demonstrating the PSA's understanding of the inquiry PD process, and be part of the inquiry group.
4. any additional supporting information.

Project applications will be considered by BCTF staff and a BCTF Executive Committee full-time table officer.

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).