

Summary of changes from the *Teachers Act* and new regulations

Factor	Prior to the <i>Teachers Act</i>	As a result of the <i>Teachers Act</i>
Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$120 • set by college • paid by practising teachers • non-practising teachers were not required to pay fee • automatic deduction by employer only by agreement with union • teachers on long-term disability—no fee • retired teachers maintain certificate through non-practising category. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$80 • set by regulation • paid by all certified teachers including retirees and teachers on long-term disability • no non-practising category • automatic deduction required by legislation—change to <i>School Act</i> • teachers on long-term disability required to pay certification fee • retired teachers required to pay certificate fee or cancel certificate.
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • previously members of BC College of Teachers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no longer applicable—fee is only for certification.
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • twelve elected members, eight appointed by minister • authority over all matters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three appointed from BCTF nominations, five elected, seven appointed by minister, one non-voting government rep • authority to set standards for conduct/competency and teacher education programs • no role in discipline.
Discipline committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discipline committee members selected by college • majority elected members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Conduct Board • nine members appointed by ministry from council members • only four members can be BCTF nominated or elected councillors.
Hearing panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three-member panels of council members (normally two would be elected members) • hearings private unless panel permits someone to attend. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three-member panels • lay people can apply to be on panels • limit of one BCTF member per hearing panel • presumption of public hearing unless panel orders otherwise.
Pre-hearing screening/resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • registrar (hired by college council) screened person complaints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commissioner (appointed by minister) screens person complaints.

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Preliminary investigation subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considered all person complaints forwarded by registrar • considered all other reports of conduct/competency concerns • three people plus one alternate selected by council from council members • determined what would be investigated, what would go to hearing, what would be resolved through agreement, determined terms of agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preliminary investigation subcommittee eliminated • commissioner now does all duties previously performed by committee.
Discipline decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • private—only summaries released. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • full decisions will be public—posted on website.
Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • right to full appeal of all decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no right to appeal. Can judicially review only—grounds for review are narrow.
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set by council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set by council—old standards carried over as interim.
Discipline procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set by council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set by commissioner.
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employees of council directed by council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employees of ministry.
Registrar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • registrar (teacher) selected by council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • executive director—ministry appointment—Susan Kennedy on an interim basis • commissioner—ministry appointment—Dianne Flood on an interim basis (not a teacher, a lawyer—expert in tribunal procedure).
Director of certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hired by council, Beverly Maxwell. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hired by ministry, Shawn McMullen (has been evaluator at college for number of years—is a teacher).
Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • membership-based • fitness committee elected by council members determines whether teachers meet standards of fitness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no concept of membership • certificate is a license to teach • director of certification—determines if qualifications and standards for fitness are met • three-member appeal panel appointed by commissioner.

BC regulation	Title	Purpose
239/2011	Oath of Office for BC Teachers' Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wording of oath
244/2011	Fees Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets certification fees
2/2012	Teachers' Council Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • process for nomination and election to BC Teachers' Council
3/2012	Commissioners' Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rules for disciplinary and professional conduct inquiries and certification appeals
4/2012	Independent School – Teaching Certificates Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • classifies independent school teaching certificates
5/2012	Letters of Permission Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • process for applying for, and accepting applications for, letters of permission

Full text can be found at: www.bclaws.ca

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