



SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE BCTF



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The Social Justice Program has the ultimate objective of building safe, equitable, sustainable, and non-discriminatory communities; places where social justice will define the quality of children's lives.

What does it mean to be a social justice union?

As a social justice union, we:

- accept and act on our broad responsibility to be involved in the social development of the communities, province, and world in which we live.
- are responsible for being and creating active citizens who work for social change for the betterment of humanity.
- act in the interests of the children we teach so they may live in a world that has enhanced equity, security, and sustainability.

We are:

- a province-wide network of social justice contacts and school-based social justice activists, which includes activists involved in the issues of the action groups.
- a provincial Committee for Action on Social Justice. These 24 members voluntarily co-ordinate zone meetings, help build and strengthen the social justice network, liaise with the social justice activists, and advise the BCTF Executive Committee on social justice issues. All are regular classroom teachers. They are assigned to six action groups: Antiracism; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ); Peace and Global Education; Antipoverty; Environmental Justice and Sustainability Issues; and Status of Women. Each action group is composed of four Committee for Action on Social Justice (CASJ) members. The action groups' purpose is to provide information, lesson ideas, and professional support for classroom teachers. For further information about each action group, go to the BCTF website (<http://bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=18432>), and find their discrete web pages.
- BCTF administrative and support staff who provide information and support to the entire social justice network, design and edit the *Social Justice Newsletter*, co-ordinate social justice conferences, and facilitate the booking of social justice workshops.
- PSAs of the BCTF such as Educators Against Racism, Peace and Global Educators, and Environmental Educators.

What do we do?

We:

- act as advocates for social justice issues within the BC public school system and our local, national, and global communities.
- develop and implement policies and contract language that aim to equalize opportunities for teachers, students, and their communities.
- offer workshops and presentations to teachers, students, and the community in social justice areas.
- participate in the BCTF and local teacher union activities.
- provide social justice grants to individual teachers and local social justice committees to help bring social justice initiatives to life in classrooms and locals.
- provide information and support to locals and teachers.
- work with school-based social justice contacts to create a network of social justice activists
- raise awareness about social justice issues at the local, zonal, and provincial levels.

What can we do for you in the area of social justice?

- Act as an advocate.
- Help with skill building.
- Provide research and informational support.
- Provide free Pro-D workshops for locals and schools.
- Provide web-based resources for classroom teachers.
- Access social justice calendar of national and international events at bctf.ca/uploadedfiles/Public/SocialJustice/SJCalendar.pdf.
- Access social justice lens booklet.
- Provide SJ SURT training for locals.

How do you access social justice grants?

Local social justice grants:

Local Social Justice Committee members apply for these grants through their local. You can find information about these grants, including application forms and criteria, at <http://bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=6274>. Projects should help develop and sustain the social justice work and networks of the local through the application of the social justice lens. Federation staff will assist locals in developing social justice projects.

Ed May Social Responsibility Fund:

Individual members or school staff may apply for funds to help develop school-based social justice projects and programs, or deliver support to promote student-centred social responsibility activities. For information

For more information

on social justice grants and an application form, see bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=6274.

about applying for these funds go to <http://bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=6030>, or page 28 of this handbook.

For the International Solidarity Program, contact Larry Kuehn, 604-871-2255, lkuehn@bctf.ca

Staff responsibilities for social justice programs 2010–11

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BCTF GRAPHICS

■ Social justice lens

For more information

about the Social Justice program at the BCTF, go to bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx

