



WORKSHOPS PROGRAM



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For further information

or to discuss possibilities, please contact Kelly Shields
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Introduction

The BCTF has a proud history of supporting members and locals with workshops and training. Sessions are facilitated by BCTF facilitators with special expertise and training.

Workshops are available for school staffs, districts, locals, parent groups, and conferences/PD days.

School and teacher leadership program

The school and teacher leadership development program promotes ongoing learning for teachers through workshops and study. All sessions are led by classroom teachers (facilitators) trained by the BCTF.

WorkshopsPlus: Sometimes schools, locals, or regions need a workshop or study session that is not covered by our current list of workshops. BCTF facilitators are often able to adapt and extend services to meet the needs. Further, locals and/or schools that are geographically adjacent may wish to co-sponsor BCTF workshops together. Kelly Shields, the workshop co-ordinator, will work with locals and schools in the organization and logistics of co-sponsored workshops. Sessions meeting BCTF workshop criteria and budget guidelines will be fully funded by the BCTF. Cost-sharing with school districts and agencies is also negotiable.

If you have an idea, contact Kelly Shields at kshields@bctf.ca, 604-871-1879, or 1-800-663-9163, local 1879.

Examples of WorkshopsPlus delivery models:

- classroom demonstrations
- onsite school district and local training to build local capacity, e.g., Workshops on Workshops (WOW)
- presentations to parent advisory councils
- regional learning series on staying well at teaching, strengthening teacher leadership, or classroom practices
- regional teacher inquiry or action research groups, examining teaching practice, and curriculum questions
- social justice associates, linking with community coalitions to sponsor regional/local social issues events.

School and teacher leadership workshops

Booking criteria for workshops

- booked through the Professional and Social Issues Division
- facilitated by BCTF facilitators who are classroom teachers
- require at least three-weeks advance notice
- for groups of 15 to 30 (special circumstances and small schools exempted)
- for intact teacher groups, school staffs, etc.

Preference is given to workshops that are three to five hours in length. Some workshops cannot be presented in less than five hours.

Workshops require no honorarium as the BCTF covers the costs for the facilitator. The staff/intact group is responsible for facilities and supplies.

Criteria for PD days or conferences

- No more than five BCTF-led workshops may be presented on a PD day.
- Preregistration is preferred, with cancellation two weeks in advance if the workshop is undersubscribed.
- Minimum length of the workshops is two to three hours each.
- A few workshops are five hours in length.

Booking process

- To request a workshop, use the Workshop Request form, found at <http://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/ProD/Conferences/FaxbackWorkshopReqForm.pdf>. Include alternate dates, if any.
- You may also contact Nadia Bove in PSID at nbove@bctf.ca, 604-871-1860, or 1-800-663-9163 local 1860, who will determine availability of facilitators with a geographic match where possible.
- Once a facilitator has been found, the workshop will be confirmed by e-mail to both the organizer and the facilitator.
- The facilitator will contact the workshop organizer to finalize arrangements for the day.

■ **Aboriginal education workshops**

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1. Aboriginal history, culture (Part I), and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (Part II)

This workshop provides an overview of Aboriginal people in BC. Participants gain an understanding of how history has affected Aboriginal children's education. There is also a focus on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. The insights you gain will affect the Aboriginal learner in a positive way.

2. Beyond words: Creating racism-free schools for Aboriginal learners

This workshop discusses racism as it affects Aboriginal people, particularly Aboriginal students. Within the discussion, teachers and staff work together to address the racism in their school.

3. Inclusive schools and teaching practices for Aboriginal students (Part I) and English-as-a-second dialect (Part II)

This workshop provides ways to have our schools be inviting and welcoming for Aboriginal people. If Aboriginal students are to be more successful in all aspects of school, there must be involvement and communication between schools and Aboriginal parents in order to address Aboriginal children's education. It includes a focus on English-as-a-second-language, what is taking place across BC, and explores together "how do we do this given that we might not be Aboriginal?" These workshops offer ways to build a working relationship between the school and the community as well as to enhance our professional practice working with Aboriginal learners and communities.

4. Indigenous perspectives

This workshop will explore some of the impacts of colonization on Aboriginal/Indigenous education. What is Indigenous education? What are the paradigms, and where can we shift?

5. Working with Aboriginal youth

This workshop helps participants develop plans to create a welcoming environment, to be inclusive and caring for all Aboriginal youth, and to understand how to work with Aboriginal youth.

6. Employment equity for Aboriginal teachers (Part I) and Implementing employment equity programs (Part II)

This workshop helps participants understand the employment equity concept as it relates to all teachers. The workshop will address fears, myths, and realities of employment equity. It will explore the language

to be used in the hiring process and help members become more familiar with the topic. Strategies for implementing employment equity for the local will be explored. Part II of the workshop will focus on the strategies for implementing employment equity at the local level.

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■ Workshops for Aboriginal parents

1. Pulling together

The first in a series of three presentations, this workshop is designed to pull parents together to begin a process of learning about one another and to address the educational needs of our Aboriginal students.

2. Finding your voice

The second presentation in the series will revisit some of the issues and concerns raised in the previous presentation. It will then create an understanding of the parents' rights as set out in the *School Act* and provide a forum to voice experiences with the public school system.

3. Breaking barriers

The third presentation in the series will help identify barriers to parental involvement, provide strategies to overcome those barriers, and provide suggestions for effective parental involvement at their child's school.

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■ Classroom issues workshops

1. Assessment for learning

(also available in French)

This workshop reviews the research that shows that doing more formative assessment in classrooms can have dramatic effects on student learning and achievement for all students, and help low achievers the most. The workshop will review the research, clarify the differences between formative assessment *for* learning and summative assessment *of* learning, and provide opportunities for participants to discuss what this might look like in the grades and subjects they teach. Participants are asked to bring student work in order to practice giving descriptive feedback.

2. Module A: The BCTF Code of Ethics

This workshop helps staff representatives understand professional behavior as it relates to the *BCTF Code of Ethics*. It explores the meaning of the various clauses, the rationale and processes for enforcement of the

code, and the staff representatives' role in promoting ethical conduct. Scenarios promote discussion on related work and the role of the BCTF Judicial Council.

Module B: Boundaries issues: Understanding the professional relationship between teachers and students

Sometimes the standards of conduct between students and teachers are ambiguous. Teachers place themselves in jeopardy when boundaries are crossed. This workshop helps school staffs identify the boundaries and provides them with support and resources. Reference will be made to the *BCTF Code of Ethics*.

Module C: Social networking and new technologies: Being a professional online (*new, Fall 2011*)

This workshop helps staff representatives understand professional behavior as it relates to the *BCTF Code of Ethics*. It explores the meaning of the various clauses, the rationale and processes for enforcement of the code, and the staff representatives' role in promoting ethical conduct. Scenarios promote discussion on related work and the role of the BCTF Judicial Council.

3. Creating an environment for learning: Classroom management (*also available in French*)

This workshop focuses on how to create and maintain a positive and respectful classroom learning environment. Included is the opportunity to re-examine personal practice and beliefs, explore respectful discipline approaches, and expand classroom-management strategies. Facilitators use reflective and interactive strategies to support participant learning.

4. Understanding and dealing with difficult student behaviour

What works best for managing difficult student behaviour? This is a question often asked by teachers who, despite establishing a positive classroom environment and clear behavioural expectations, have students who require specific support in order to manage their behaviour. This workshop reviews theory, assessment tools, teacher self-reflection, resources, and a variety of strategies for responding to chronic disruptive student behaviour. Facilitators are behaviour resource teachers, counsellors, and teachers with expertise and experience in this field. Consultation regarding specific behaviour challenges (e.g., ADHD, aggression/bullying, motivation) is subject to facilitator availability.

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Presentations for parents

1. Antibullying

Bullying behaviours are no longer acceptable in our society, and schools are attempting to do something about them. This introductory session on antibullying will include: the definition, the bullying triad, the cycle of bullying, and the signs to watch for if your child is being bullied. Participants will also learn and share strategies for bullyproofing children and schools.

2. Born to buy

Do your children ask for brand names when you're shopping with them? This presentation examines increasing pressures on teens and "tweens" (9- to 14-year olds) by marketing companies who are targeting them to buy their products. Billions of dollars are at stake. Find out about the negative effects of relentless consumerism on your children and gain practical tips to deal with it.

3. Bugs, drugs, and rugs: Student health and safety

Do you ever wonder if something at school could be making your child sick? Is your child safe at school? In this presentation, parents will learn about some health and safety issues in BC schools, such as indoor air quality, toxic substances, general cleanliness, and emergency preparedness. Take away practical ideas to make your school a healthier and safer place.

4. Captive mind—Captive market?

Are schools a market place or a learning community? This presentation examines corporate sponsorship and exclusive sponsorship agreements that school districts undertake in the face of an underfunded public school system. Find out what corporate leaders say about this and why parents should be concerned. You'll come away with useful information and tips to assist you in your parent advocacy role.

5. Raising confident boys (and girls)

Some parents have noticed their boys falling behind the girls in marks and interest in school. Are boys, on average, falling behind girls in academic achievement? Are boys' and girls' brains hard-wired differently? In this session, we will examine some of the issues around boys' academic achievement, link some of the differences to brain research, and explore male and female role models. Parents will have an opportunity to share stories and strategies that will help raise confident boys and girls.

6. Supporting your child's learning

Parents play a critical role in their child's education in so many ways; one very important way is by guiding their learning at home. This practical session will present strategies that can help your child develop effective homework and study skills and promote lifelong learning. Parents will also learn natural ways to include additional reading and math activities at home.

7. Internet bullying

Our children need guidance to ensure their online experience will be safe. Your child has access to a very "public place" which is quickly changing. Teaching your child Internet skills that promote awareness and knowledge to protect their personal safety is not an easy task. This workshop will provide an overview of the jargon, the risks, and how to explain Internet safety to your child.

■ Social justice and global education workshops

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1. Assertive communication *(newly revised, available November 2011)*

Want to learn how to stand up for yourself in a direct but non-confrontational manner? This workshop teaches the key principles of communication that allow people to say what they think without losing their cool or reverting to being a doormat.

2. Bafa Bafa (secondary)/Rafa Rafa (elementary)

(Cross-cultural simulation game)

Participants experience what it is like to live and cope in another culture. After the simulation, presenters will facilitate a discussion with the participants on what assumptions or perceptions they made, and the behavior they witnessed about one another's culture. Analysis of common ground and barriers between cultures will be explored. Other similar games and classroom activities will be provided in a handout package.

3. Breaking the silence: Talking about (LGBTQ) (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning) issues in schools

Start a dialogue within your school or district about the harmful effects of homophobia and transphobia. Examine myths and stereotypes, link oppressions, and understand how you can make your school safer and more inclusive. Find out how homophobia affects all students in your classroom. Resource list, lesson plans, and handouts provided.

- 4. Bringing global education into the classroom** *(also available in French)*
Are you looking for new ways to energize how you teach existing units? Introducing a global perspective into your classroom can be challenging, but exciting. Bring your existing ideas, a current unit, or theme to this workshop and let us show you how to integrate, infuse, and deliver it from a global perspective at any grade level. A global education approach activates student interest as it increases personal engagement and involvement in the classroom, the surrounding community, and our world. This workshop is beneficial for K–12.
- 5. Choosing your issues and planning your action** *(revised)*
Sometimes it's difficult to know where to begin when faced with a problem or issue. In this workshop, participants will learn how to take an issue and plan a course of action using strategic and analytic tools that will maximize the potential for success without wasting time and energy.
- 6. From silence to action: Supporting LGBTQ secondary students and staff**
This workshop will address concerns that many secondary teachers have when trying to address LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning) issues. Content can be tailored to meet participant's needs, including topics such as curriculum integration, Social Justice 12 inclusion, Gay Straight Alliance clubs, and carrying out annual or school-wide events. Teachers will gain skills on how to be a role model and allies in creating a safe and welcoming school climate for all.
- 7. Global education: Creating cultures of peace**
With ever increasing violence in our schools, communities and media desensitizing our youth, what can we do as teachers to create cultures of peace? This interactive workshop provides resources for teachers and their students to create peaceful learning communities. Activities will incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and discuss the effects of war and violence on children and youth, including child soldiering. Examples highlighting the “transforming war toys to peace art” process will be shared as a model to build cultures of peace for children and youth.
- 8. Global education: For a sustainable future** *(also available in French)*
This workshop will focus on the future we want in our global community. Probable, possible, and preferable futures will be considered and actions to achieve the world we want will be explored. Participants will engage in discussions on economic or environmental themes, using current theory relevant to BC curricula. Activities to engage elementary and secondary students actively in exploring their preferable future will be shared.

9. Linking thinking: Integrating environmental education into all classrooms *(new)*

This interactive workshop provides strategies and lesson plans that teachers can use the next day to integrate environmental education into most aspects of the curriculum. This workshop may include sample lesson plans on environmental, social, and economic issues related to food, habitat loss, transportation, and water. The focus of the workshop is on making environmental education accessible to all teachers and on highlighting the links between curriculum areas and our local communities. Through the incorporation of environmental education into all classrooms, educators and learners alike will be inspired to think critically about consumption and ways to live more responsibly, thus reducing the overall impact humans have on the environment.

10. Resisting normalized sexual violence against youth *(new)*

School hallways, walks to and from school and social events, and youth gatherings can be intimidating and overwhelming to female students as they may feel vulnerable to sexual bullying, harassment, and assault. The workshop will explore how to name and address some of the behaviours leading to this normalized culture of sexual violence. It will include information on the statistics of sexual harassment, definitions on the types and forms of sexual harassment and assault, and applicable laws. As well, teachers will learn strategies on how to identify, respond, and address sexual violence and prepare their students to also do so.

11. Responding to racism: From reflection to praxis

This is a skills-based workshop on effectively responding to discriminatory remarks and incidents of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Based on the anti-discrimination response training (ADRT) program developed by Dr. F. Ishu Ishiyama (UBC), and Dr. Vikki Reynold's ally building model, it is a powerful, practical way to promote awareness, empathy, and develop the skills to fight discrimination.

12. Social justice in every classroom

How socially just is your classroom? Do you include social justice and human rights as part of your curriculum? Would you like your students to participate in social justice activities locally and globally? This workshop is designed for teachers to expand and enhance their teaching strategies for including social justice issues in the classroom. These practical activities can be used throughout the K–Grade 12 curriculum.

13. Socializing justice: Taking action against racism

The anti-racism workshop examines the realities of racism in Canada, today. By making connections from the past to the present, the workshop attempts to challenge the notion that Canada, despite its official recognition of multiculturalism, has addressed and eliminated racism. The workshop provides some youth perspectives on racism and in the schools and its impact. It also examines the concept of privilege in society and how the legacy of our colonial past has shaped our present. Strategies will also be discussed as to how to interrupt and disrupt racism in society—classroom, school, and community. Participants will leave this interactive workshop with materials that they can use in their own classrooms as well as an opportunity to self-reflect.

14. Strategies for discussing controversial issues

This workshop gives participants strategies to help students explore and discuss controversial social issues in a respectful manner. The strategies foster high student participation and engagement. Suitable for teachers of Grades 5–12.

15. Teachers can make a difference for children living in poverty (*new*)

This new workshop is a continuation from Poverty as a classroom issue. Participants will be challenged to examine their attitudes and beliefs about poverty. Specific strategies and pedagogy will be incorporated that will provide teachers with tools and perspectives to challenge and transform the current poverty crisis in our classrooms, schools, and communities.

16. Poverty as a Classroom Issue (*revised*)

BC has the highest poverty rate in Canada and 20% of all our children live in poverty. This workshop helps teachers to develop an awareness of the issue of poverty and its implication for our students. It will provide challenges for teachers on the assumptions we make about children living in poverty and provide strategies for teachers on how to support children who may be experiencing discrimination at school due to their socio-economic status.

17. “That’s so gay” is not okay!

Tired of hearing, “That’s so gay”? In this workshop, you explore scenarios and learn effective strategies to counteract homophobic slurs in schools. A resource list, lesson plans, and handouts are provided. This is not a beginner’s workshop; participants and schools requesting the workshop should have some previous awareness or understanding of

homophobia or lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or questioning (LGBTQ) issues. The goal of this workshop is to develop a school-wide plan for dealing with homophobic and transphobic name-calling.

18. Thirsty for change: The global water crisis

This new workshop looks at the issue of water, locally and globally, with a particular focus on the dwindling supply of free, safe, public drinking water, and the subsequent impact especially on women and children. This workshop will bring together aspects of the issue from a social justice and global education perspective. Strategies will help teachers link this topic to curriculum, such as Social Justice 12, social studies, science, and, as part of their social responsibility goals. Lesson plans for annual events such as Earth Day and Rivers Day, as well as how to carry out a social justice project such as the Council of Canadian's Blue Communities campaign will be included.

Strengthening teaching; talking to one another

When teachers talk about their practice and focus on questions about teaching and learning in a trusting, respectful environment, they grow as professionals. That growth is both renewing and re-energizing and it allows teachers to provide the best learning opportunities for their students. This workshop consists of two three-hour modules, which may be booked separately or booked together for a full day.

Exploring play in K: An essential element in the Kindergarten classroom *(5 hours) (new in late Fall 2011)*

In this hands-on workshop, Kindergarten teachers will use concrete manipulatives to further their understanding of play. Why play? Because play, is young children's work. A vision of play in a full-day Kindergarten class is explored. Learning through play, self-regulation executive functioning thematic learning, themes and integration are elements of the workshop. The workshop facilitators are experienced Kindergarten and primary teachers with years of experience teaching Kindergarten from a play-based perspective.

Full-day Kindergarten

In this hands-on workshop, teachers of full-day Kindergarten will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the principles and applications of a new updated Primary Program document. The goal of the workshop is to help teachers plan for the delivery of a play-based, developmentally

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appropriate, child-centred full-day Kindergarten curriculum. The workshop facilitators are experienced Kindergarten and primary teachers with years of experience teaching Kindergarten from a play-based perspective.

Note: There is a cost-recovery fee of \$1,350 for this workshop.

Module 3: Beginning the conversation

This session will focus on tools needed to create an environment for honest, effective, and open professional conversations. Participants will also look at templates to help expand their professional skills and strategies for choosing discussion topics.

Module 4: Now what do we talk about?

This session will be a facilitated discussion based on a DVD, podcast, or article on the following topics:

- classroom management
- brain research and learning
- assessment
- OR another topic chosen by the school or intact group.

Teachers teaching on call (TTOCs) workshops

1. EI seminar

This seminar helps TTOCs understand the steps to follow in applying for, and obtaining, EI benefits.

2. **Module A: Work-Life balance** (offered as a 90-minute session or two-hour session) (*new October 2011*) Cell phones are attached to TTOCs! Callouts from the board can happen at any time. Callout is uncertain, the grade/subject that TTOCs will be called out for on any day is uncertain. This workshop is designed specifically for TTOCs and offers strategies for maintaining work-life balance in a particularly stressful role. Setting attainable and realistic goals are a feature of this workshop.

2. **Module B: Personal well-being** (offered as a 90-minute session or two-hour session) (*new October 2011*)

This workshop focuses on nutrition, exercise, and sleep as foundations of a healthy life. This workshop is about making behavioral changes. A sharing of successes and learning from each other are key features of this workshop.

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3. **Module C: Talking about the elephant: Dealing with anger—a workshop for TTOCs** (offered as a 90-minute session or two-hour session) (*new October 2011*)

What is anger? What are the sources of anger? What are the phases of anger? How do we develop positive strategies to effectively respond to anger? TTOCs deal with uncertainty, new relationships, and different school cultures. Ambiguity can lead to stress which can result in anger. This workshop explores all aspects of anger and how it can be managed, resulting in recharging and reconnecting in our daily work and personal lives.

5. **Raising health and safety awareness**

This workshop is designed for teachers teaching on call, new teachers, and other teachers who are looking for a general introduction to worker health and safety in schools. Topics for discussion include: four basic rights, duties and responsibilities of employers and workers, duties of joint health and safety committees, and injury reporting.

6. **Reality 101: Life teaching on call**

This workshop is designed to support teachers teaching on call with current teaching practices and resources, and to enhance their confidence in their professional status.

7. **Understanding the professional relationship: Boundary issues—staying safe in your role as a TTOC**

Sometimes the standards of conduct between students and teachers are ambiguous. Teachers place themselves in jeopardy when boundaries are crossed. This workshop helps TTOCs identify the boundaries and provides TTOCs with real-life TTOC scenarios. Reference will be made to the BCTF Code of Ethics.

Staying well at teaching

Teaching is complex. High public expectations, class composition, educational cutbacks, and increased accountability affect schools, teachers, and students. BCTF surveys identify increased workload and stress as significant concerns for teachers.

This workshop helps teachers stay well. Setting boundaries around workload, self-care and smart choices, and de-stressing are key themes. All focus on building shared solutions to both the demands of the work and the isolation of teaching.

Participants will reconnect with colleagues, laugh, and tell stories as they assess their work/life balance and explore staying well and creating a healthy workplace.

Skilled teacher facilitators will design the session to suit the needs of each school staff. Retreat locations away from the school are recommended, where possible.

Workshops for school staffs

1. Creating positive school culture: Fostering teamwork, taking stock, and taking action *(also available in French)*

If your school or group is looking for assistance with team building, climate-setting, and decision-making this workshop is for you.

Within a framework of school culture, facilitators design and deliver experiential workshops based on the desired outcomes of the group. All sessions aim to strengthen community and build action plans in a safe, collaborative environment. Communication skill-building practice is included, where possible.

Plan for the possibility of a one-day follow-up session; or plan for two one-day workshops in the initial booking.

2. Goal setting *(newly revised in the spring of 2011)*

This workshop is for school staffs or other intact groups, like school departments wanting to explore and establish their vision and goals for their work. Participants will identify, share, and develop action plans in a collegial and supportive atmosphere.

3. Working together with parents is good for kids and teachers!

Positive relationships between parents and teachers enhance student learning. In today's school climate of ascending parental rights, teachers' positive communication strategies and conflict-resolution skills are often required. This workshop for school staffs overviews the current context influencing roles and responsibilities, provides introductory communication and conflict skill practice, and focuses on how to build shared advocacy between teachers and parents on behalf of students.