



## WORKSHOPS PROGRAM 2009–10



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### For further information

or to discuss possibilities, contact Margaret Ross at [mross@bctf.ca](mailto:mross@bctf.ca), 604-871-1879, or 1-800-663-9163 (local 1879).

### Introduction

The BCTF has a proud history of supporting members and locals with workshops and training. Sessions are facilitated by BCTF associates and trainers 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 (associates) 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.

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 Margaret Ross at [mross@bctf.ca](mailto:mross@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 PSID Training Department
- facilitated by BCTF associates 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 three hours.

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

### **Criteria for Pro-D 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.

### **Booking process**

- To request a workshop, use the Workshop Request Form, found at [bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Professional\\_Development/Conferences/FaxbackWorkshopReqForm.pdf](http://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Professional_Development/Conferences/FaxbackWorkshopReqForm.pdf). Include alternate dates, if any.
- You may also contact Bonnie Quan Symons in the Training Department at [bquansymons@bctf.ca](mailto:bquansymons@bctf.ca), 604-871-1857, or 1-800-663-9163 local 1857, who will determine availability of associates with a geographic match where possible.
- Once an associate has been found, the workshop will be confirmed by e-mail to both the organizer and the associate.
- The associate will contact the workshop organizer to finalize arrangements for the day.

## Contact

Marjorie Dumont at  
*mdumont@bctf.ca*,  
604-871-1854, or  
1-800-663-9163  
(local 1854), if you  
have questions on  
workshop content.

## Aboriginal education workshops

### 1. Aboriginal history, culture, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

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

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/dialect, 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.

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*mdumont@bctf.ca*,  
 604-871-1854, or  
 1-800-663-9163  
 (local 1854), if you  
 have questions on  
 workshop content.

## 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 meeting. 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 with their child's school.

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*mdumont@bctf.ca*,  
 604-871-1854, or  
 1-800-663-9163  
 (local 1854), if you  
 have questions on  
 workshop content.

## 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. Boundaries issues

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*.

### 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. Associates 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 behaviour 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. Associates 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.

### **Contact**

David Halme at  
*dhalm@bctf.ca*,  
 604-871-1883, or  
 1-800-663-9163  
 (local 1883), if you  
 have questions on  
 workshop content.

### **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.

### ■ **Social justice and global education workshops**

#### **Contact**

Joan Merrifield at [jmerrifield@bctf.ca](mailto:jmerrifield@bctf.ca), 604-871-1850, or 1-800-663-9163 (local 1850), if you have questions on workshop content.

#### 1. **ADT (Antidiscrimination response training)**

This is a skills-based workshop on effectively responding to discriminatory remarks and incidents of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Based on the ART program developed by Dr. F. Ishu Ishiyama (UBC), it is a powerful, practical way to promote awareness and empathy, and develop the skills to fight discrimination.

#### 2. **Assertive communication**

Tired of having bullies kick sand in your face? 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.

#### 3. **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.

**4. Breaking the silence: Talking about lesbian & gay issues in schools**

Start a dialogue within your school or district about the harmful effects of homophobia. 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.

**5. Choosing your issues and planning your action**

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**

Ever feel overwhelmed by antigay namecalling or feel apprehensive discussing an issue dealing with homosexuality in your class? What if a student wants to come out to you? This workshop will address these concerns, and others, 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. This workshop helps develop skills for teachers to be positive role models and allies in creating a safe and welcoming school climate for all, and specifically for LGBTQ students and staff.

**7. Poverty as a classroom issue**

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 the socio-economic status.

**8. Social justice in every classroom**

This workshop is designed for teachers to expand and enhance their teaching strategies for including social justice issues in the classroom. These practical activities, which can be used throughout the curriculum, will assist teachers in creating and promoting a safe and caring environment for all.

**9. 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.

**10. “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.

**11. Water: a feminist perspective**

This new workshop looks at the issue of water, locally and globally, with a particular focus on its impact on women and children. This workshop will bring together aspects of the issue from a social justice, feminist policy, 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, will be included.

**12. Global education: Creating cultures of peace—acts of transformation from war toys to peace art**

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.

**13. 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.

#### **14. Global education: In and beyond the classroom** (*also available in French*)

This workshop invites teachers to expand and build on the theory and practice of global education in their classrooms and beyond.

Participants explore ways to integrate and infuse a global perspective at any grade level and in any curriculum areas. Whether their passion is for environmental issues, media literacy, multiculturalism, globalization, peace, international development, gender equality, or human rights, participants discover the interconnections and possibilities to engage students in action for change. Workshops can be tailored to elementary, secondary, and pre-service groups, as well as to subject specialties.



#### **Contact**

Margaret Ross at  
*mross@bctf.ca*,  
 604-871-1879, or  
 1-800-663-9163  
 (local 1879), if you  
 have questions on  
 workshop content.

#### **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.

##### **Module 1: 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 2: 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.

## Contact

Kelly Shields at  
*kshields@bctf.ca*,  
 604-871-1803, or  
 1-800-663-9163  
 (local 1803), if you  
 have questions on  
 workshop content.

## 2. 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.

## 3. Reality 101: Life teaching on call (formerly *Strategies for success*)

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.

Please contact the local president, the TTOC representative in the local, or the BCTF staff TTOC co-ordinator, Kelly Shields, if you are a teacher teaching on call and have concerns about any of the following:

- professional rights and responsibilities for TTOCs
- Code of Ethics
- contract issues.

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*mross@bctf.ca*,  
 604-871-1879, or  
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## Wellness, health, and balance

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



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## ■ Workshops for school staffs

### Contact

Margaret Ross at  
*mross@bctf.ca*,  
604-871-1879, or  
1-800-663-9163  
(local 1879), if you  
have questions on  
workshop content.

### 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 teambuilding, climate setting, and decision making, this workshop is for you.

Within a framework of school culture, associates 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. **School goal-setting**

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.

### 4. **Conversations about teaching, testing and autonomy**

This workshop provides an opportunity for school staffs to discuss the connection between the issues and concerns of an accountability agenda and standardized testing and how they are affecting our teaching methods, assessment for and of learning and teachers' professional autonomy.