

Teacher Inquiry Program (TIP) Application for Provincial Specialist Associations (PSAs) 2026–27

The BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) Teacher Inquiry Program provides teachers, through the process of collaboration and classroom action research, a framework for ongoing professional inquiry and growth—thus influencing the basis upon which changes occur in teaching. It promotes continuous professional development in teaching practices by fostering a structured process of investigation and reflection.

Purpose of and explorations within TIP are to:

- deepen pedagogical understanding by encouraging teachers to investigate their own educational approaches to gain insights into effective professional practices and professional development
- develop inquiry skills such as planning, observation, peer consultation, collaboration, research, reflection on the process, writing techniques, and sharing insights
- encourage reflection on broader contexts by helping teachers understand how social, cultural, and institutional forces shape their teaching approaches and instructional choices
- promote innovation and adaptability by supporting teachers in exploring new and different strategies and creative approaches that respond to the diverse and evolving needs of students. foster a collaborative learning community by creating a supportive environment where teachers can collaborate, seek feedback, share insights, and learn from one another's experiences and findings.

TIP is not about:

- focusing on student achievement, improvement, and/or engagement
- implementing district and/or school-wide initiatives, goals, strategic plans, or programs
- improving working conditions or addressing bargaining issues and concerns
- networking or member engagement and participation in PSAs
- finding or converging to a common conclusion, strategy, action, curriculum, unit/lesson plan, resource, or model to implement.

Inquiry process and funding:

PSAs interested in applying to TIP with a potential inquiry topic will need to select a lead coordinator who will initiate the application process. The Federation will offer a matching grant of up to \$7,500 for release time, provided that the PSA contributes the equivalent funds to support the inquiry. When applying, consider the release time, coverage (i.e., TTOCs) needed, and their availability in the local/district during regular school days and hours.

Once the TIP project application is approved, BCTF TIP facilitators will be assigned to help guide participants with the inquiry process in six half-day sessions: introduce the teacher inquiry process; develop and refine an inquiry question; research and collect data pertaining to the inquiry question; synthesize and analyze the findings; plan, prepare, and finalize the project; share, present, and celebrate the inquiry project process.

Responsibilities of the TIP lead coordinator:

- **Coordinate the following:**
 - include a minimum of six and maximum of 12 participants in the inquiry project
 - work with the BCTF TIP facilitator to determine dates for the six sessions including meeting location(s) and space(s)
 - provide technology equipment and photocopies of materials needed by the BCTF TIP facilitator(s).
- **Organize the final celebration event to share the group's inquiry.**
 - Share your learning with your PSA and with the PSA Council.
- **Upon completion of the teacher inquiry:**
 - collect and submit the TIP project summary from the celebration event to the BCTF, which may be shared on the BCTF TIP website upon consent (inquiry summaries may be a PowerPoint, report document, video or audio recording, multimedia, etc.)
 - submit feedback on the teacher inquiry and a breakdown of the budget expenditures to Daniel Shiu at the BCTF: dshiu@bctf.ca.

Responsibilities of the BCTF TIP facilitator:

- Contact the lead coordinator when the TIP has been approved.
- Plan and organize the meeting agenda for each inquiry session.
- Facilitate each of the six inquiry sessions.

Key dates and application process:

1. **By Friday, October 9, 2026**, the lead coordinator should have contacted Daniel Shiu at the BCTF by phone at 604-871-1821 or toll-free at 1-800-663-9163, local 1821, or email dshiu@bctf.ca to assist in the application process and discuss the proposed inquiry topic.
2. Fill in Part A, including the names of the participants (minimum of 6 and maximum of 12), and submit it to the PSA president and executive members for approval of the matching funds.
3. **By Monday, October 26, 2026 (5:00 p.m.)**, the president of the PSA should have submitted the approved application form to TIPapplications@bctf.ca. **Please do not send it to BCTF staff.**
4. For approved PSA TIP applications, lead coordinators will be contacted and expected to attend a virtual meeting after school in November, during which BCTF staff will provide additional information about the TIP process and related logistical procedures.

Part A

Name of person submitting this proposal (lead coordinator—teacher who initiates the inquiry):

PSA: _____

Current assignment of lead coordinator: _____

Email: _____ Daytime phone: _____

- ☐ I acknowledge and understand the purpose and process of the BCTF TIP and have contacted Daniel Shiu (dshiu@bctf.ca, 604-871-1821, or toll-free 1-800-663-9163 ext. 1821) prior to submission.

Please list the names of all inquiry participants including the lead coordinator (minimum of six and maximum of 12 people; accommodation for participant numbers will be considered upon request).

	Name	Position and School, District, or Local
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____

Provide details to the following questions (if more space is needed, please send an attachment with the application form):

1. **Focus:** What topic would your group like to explore?

2. **Rationale:** Why does your group want to explore the above topic(s)? Include specific subject(s) or grade level(s) on which the inquiry will focus.

3. **Explanation:** Explain briefly how the proposed topic may address pedagogical questions affecting the practice of teaching and/or the teaching profession.

4. **Supports:** What protocols and contacts are needed to support the inquiry (e.g., cultural, safety, well-being)?

Part B

Matching PSA fund amount approved by PSA Executive Committee: \$_____

PSA president's name: _____

PSA president's signature: _____

PSA president's email: _____

Submission Due: Monday, October 26, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Applications will be considered and reviewed by BCTF staff and the BCTF full-time table officers. Selection will be made based on a variety of criteria including topic/rationale, geographic balance, and a commitment to the inquiry process. Once approved, the BCTF will notify the PSA president and lead coordinator and will assign TIP facilitators to help guide the participants through the inquiry process.

For further information on the Teacher Inquiry Program or assistance in the application process, please contact Daniel Shiu at the BCTF by phone (604-871-1821) or toll-free at 1-800-663-9163, local 1821, or email (dshiu@bctf.ca).