

Teacher Inquiry Program (TIP) Provincial Application 2026–27 Virtual Platform Only (Zoom)

The 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
- addressing or implementing district, administrative, or school-wide initiatives, goals, strategic plans, or programs
- improving working conditions or addressing bargaining issues and concerns
- facilitating district in-service
- finding or converging to a common conclusion, strategy, action, curriculum, unit/lesson plan, resource, or model to implement.

Inquiry process and funding:

Teachers interested in applying for the provincial TIP with a potential inquiry topic will need to select a lead coordinator who will initiate the application process. The BCTF will fully fund one TIP provincial inquiry to be facilitated virtually over six half-day sessions. Only BCTF members may participate in the inquiry, and participants should be from different locals to show a wide and diverse geographic representation from across the province. The goal is to explore pedagogical questions affecting the practice of teaching and/or the teaching profession. When applying, consider the release time, coverage (i.e., TTOCs) needed, and their availability in the local/district during regular school days and hours.

BC TEACHERS' FEDERATION

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BCTF.ca | 604-871-2283



Once the provincial 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 6 and maximum of 12 participants in the inquiry project
 - work with the BCTF TIP facilitator to determine dates for the six virtual sessions
 - assist in co-ordinating transportation of the TIP facilitator(s) to and from the venue if needed (mileage will be reimbursed).
- **Organize the final celebration event to share the group's inquiry**
 - invite local and district communities virtually (e.g., local president, superintendent, school trustees, and teachers) to an event to celebrate the work of the TIP participants.
- **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 through Zoom.

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. Ensure that there is a minimum of 6 to a maximum of 12 participants from different locals and zones.
3. **By Monday, October 26, 2026 (5:00 p.m.)**, the lead coordinator should have submitted the approved application form to TIPapplications@bctf.ca. **Please do not send it to BCTF staff.**
4. For the approved provincial TIP application, the lead coordinator 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.

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

Local: _____ District: _____

Current assignment of lead co-ordinator: _____

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 6 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 using a virtual platform (i.e., Zoom)?

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 and/or self-directed professional development for teachers.

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

Submission Due: Monday, October 26, 2026

Applications will be considered by BCTF staff and the BCTF full-time table officers. **Preference will be given to applications that show a wide geographic representation and reflect diversity in the locals and/or zones.** Selection will be made based on a variety of criteria including the following: topic/rationale, geographic balance and representation, and a commitment to the inquiry process.

For further information about the virtual TIP 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).

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