



BCTF

British Columbia Teachers' Federation A Union of Professionals
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Antipoverty Month Resources Week 1: Poverty at the School Level

Issues

- attendance
- accessibility
- food and nutrition
- youth aging out of care.

Addressing the issues

- **Step 1: Awareness**
 - The BCTF has [two workshops](#) to build awareness among staff members: “Poverty as a Classroom Issue” and “Help End Child Poverty in BC’s Classrooms, Schools and Local Communities,” both of which can be booked for free.
 - Other actions that can be taken include bringing areas of concern to the staff committee, building a school action plan, and enacting policy changes at the school level.
- **Step 2: Education**
 - [Fly Away Home](#) lesson plan
 - The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition has many great lesson ideas including:
 - [End Poverty Days](#) activities
 - [Poverty Income Budget](#) lesson plan.
- **Step 3: Action**
 - This BCTF [infographic](#) outlines some of the barriers to attendance that children living in poverty face, as well as ways to support students and encourage attendance.
 - If you would like to let the BC government know that your school does not have adequate funding to meet the needs of your students, you can contact the [Ministry of Education](#) or your [local MLA](#) (click on the MLA’s name for contact information).
 - Canada is the [only G8 country](#) without a national school food program.
 - You could advocate for a national, or at least provincial, school food program, again by contacting the [BC Ministry of Education](#), the [BC Minister of Health](#), or your [local MLA](#).
 - Creating a community garden on school grounds is a great way to link a healthy food source with teachable moments in nutrition and stewardship of the land, along with the aesthetic benefits.
 - Support youth aging out of care:
 - Join [#FosteringChangeBC](#) in their campaign for [a comprehensive action plan](#).
 - If in Metro Vancouver, inform youth aging out of care of [The Friendly Landlord Network](#) which helps connect youth from care to safe, affordable rental housing.