



BCTF

British Columbia Teachers' Federation A Union of Professionals
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Guidelines for participants in the Tri-National Conference in Defense of Public Education

The conference will be held in Orizaba, Veracruz, Mexico on November 9 to 11, 2018.

The conference is expected to have about 40 participants from each of Canada and the U.S., about 60 from Mexico and a few from other countries in Latin America. The BCTF is supporting 14 participants, 6 of whom will be selected from general membership.

Logistics

BCTF participants will need to travel to Mexico City on Wednesday, November 7th and will be booked into a hotel in Mexico City. Participants from all the countries will travel together by bus to Orizaba, Veracruz, on the afternoon of November 8th. It is about a 4 to 5 hour bus ride to Orizaba.

The group will be housed in a hotel in Orizaba on November 8th, 9th and 10th, and return to Mexico City on the afternoon of November 11th. They will be at a hotel in Mexico City on November 11th and return to Canada on November 12th.

Programme

Conference participants will visit schools in Orizaba on November 9th. This is always a highlight of the participation in the Tri-national, that is seeing the context of education in the host community.

The Conference begins on the evening of November 9th, continues all day on November 10th, and wraps up in the morning of November 11th. It includes plenary sessions and a series of six workshops. There will be translation to allow for participation in both English and Spanish.

Workshop Themes proposed by the hosts include the following:

- 1) Commercialization of education, new forms of privatization, information technology, consortia and foundations.
- 2) Education financing, budget cuts and the use of public resources to subsidize the private sector;
- 3) Precarization of working conditions for education workers and the deterioration of learning conditions at all levels, from K–12 to post-secondary;
- 4) Standardized testing and "evaluation" of teacher performance;
- 5) Construction of educational alternatives, including indigenous education; and
- 6) Successful experiences of organization and struggle at local, regional, national, tri-national and hemispheric levels.

Expenses

Many of the meals will be covered as part of the conference fee. Other meals will be covered on the basis of the BCTF per-diem expense [policy](#).

The conference fee of \$125 will be covered by the BCTF. The BCTF will request union leave for participants and cover the cost of the TTOCs.

All bookings for flights and hotels will be made by the BCTF. Participants must have a valid passport and provide details for the booking of the flights.

As it should go without saying, BCTF participants are representing the BCTF and are expected to fully participate in the conference.

To apply – please, submit a BCTF [Curriculum Vitae Form](#) and a letter indicating why you want to attend, and how you would use the learnings from the conference when you return to your local and school.

E-mail your application to researchassistants@bctf.ca; Fax to: (604)-871-2294 or mail to:

BCTF International Solidarity Program
100-550 West 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

The deadline for applications is **September 28, 2018**.