

Professional Development: Random Facts and Figures

- The first PSA, the BC Primary Teachers' Association, was formed in 1957.
- 32 PSAs exist today offering annual and regional conferences and ongoing networking for members. Many PSAs publish professional journals and guides.
- The BCTF supports all PSAs organizationally and financially.
- PSAs are run by teachers and hold Annual General Meetings to elect officers and set goals.
- More than 10,000 BC teachers belong to PSAs.
- Numerous local specialist associations exist throughout the province to support and provide professional development for teachers.
- Upon request, the BCTF provides members with workshops designed to support their teaching practice. Last year, the BCTF facilitated more than 350 workshops.
- The BCTF, through the Program for Quality Teaching, offers up to 10 grants per year to support teachers with inquiry projects.
- Since 2008, the BCTF has supported more than 80 inquiry projects.
- The BCTF along with UBC and the BC School Superintendents' Association supports the New Teachers' Mentoring Project and is working with 155 teachers.
- 10 districts are formally involved in the mentoring project.
- 135 mentors and mentees attended the first Mentoring Conference last May.
- Besides the mentoring project, the BCTF holds a bi-annual New Teachers' Conference. Over 300 teachers in their first five years of teaching attended last year.
- The BCTF Peer Support Program assists individual teachers who are experiencing difficulty with their teaching practice. There are 26 ongoing peer support cases at this time.
- Workshops concerning timely and relevant social justice issues, including aboriginal education, are also available at no cost for BCTF members.
- Over 12,000 resources on the recently-launched TeachBC online resource sharing site have already been downloaded.
- The BCTF Professional Development News, providing members with information about workshops, conferences, curriculum, and ministry updates is published online monthly.