

Examples of Past Regional Social Justice Conferences (Some conference titles are linked to articles)			
Zone/Local	Date	Name of Conference	Conference Description
Chilliwack, Langley and Surrey	2008/09	SJ 12 Conference: Focus on LGBTQ and Faith (p. 11)	Keynote speaker and author of <i>The God Box</i> , Alex Sanchez, discussed what it means to be both religious and gay. A number of workshops developed by the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice, teachers, students, and community groups were offered for teachers and students.
Comox, Campbell River and Mount Arrowsmith	2008/09	Building Community: Creating a sense of belonging in our schools, neighbourhoods, organizations and communities	This conference is an extended training session for teachers, parents, students and community partners, which will provide the skills for genuine community building. Chris Corrigan, Harvest Moon Consulting, will train participants in the art of hosting authentic conversations that matter and which result in a stronger sense of belonging to community. The techniques that will be explored will include World Cafe, Open Space Technology, Appreciative Inquiry, and other “circle” techniques.
Prince George, Burns Lake and Quesnel	2009/10	Women and Children First	The goal of this conference is to come together around common issues and to make space for solutions and action. Our speakers and workshops will inspire you to create change in your community by giving you information, tools, and time. Built into the program is the BCTF workshop, “Role and Function of the Social Justice contact,” with a focus on building a strong social justice network in your local zone.
Kootenay and Columbia	2011/12	Environmental issues: Local to Global	Highlights from this conference include keynote speaker Chris Turner’s presentation on sustainable communities around the world, a workshop on alternative energy sources, and a presentation from Ali Howard, describing her swim down the Skeena River as an example of environmental activism. The conference provided opportunities for networking between environmental education

			teachers, exposure of pre-service teachers to the BCTF social Justice program, the introduction of two BCTF Environmental Justice workshops, and the participation of students in an environmental documentary contest.
Upper Skeena	2011/12	A Gathering of Nations: Poverty and Racism in the North	The aim of the project was to unite various northern groups invested in the education of youth to discuss poverty and racism. We wanted people to leave with concrete skills and plans for overcoming this large northern issue. We feel that we have met the following overarching goals: to educate the northern BCTF membership, parents and students about their role as social justice/Aboriginal education activists; to strengthen networking and mentorship of social justice/Aboriginal education delegates; to promote and inspire social justice/Aboriginal education issues with parents, members and students; and to find common interests and concerns.
VESTA and Surrey	2011/12	Poverty in BC: Teachers Taking Action	One aim of this project was to encourage teachers to exercise the political will to bring about systemic change to end child poverty. This required building awareness and making on-the-ground efforts to combat the effects of poverty in our students' lives. Network building was another important focus to build connections between concerned teachers, students, and community organizations doing antipoverty work. The conference offered opportunities to share dialogue on experiences, to develop strategy, and to work with other stakeholders in the process of making change.
Langley, Mission and Surrey	2013/14	Deconstructing Myths: Fostering Reconciliation through Understanding	Following up on the powerful learning experiences at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission events, the goal of this day is to challenge old stereotypes and build new relationships. It offers a range of workshops, films, and activities to bring teachers into a new way of

			<p>understanding the devastating and multi-generational impacts of residential schools upon Aboriginal families and communities. Participants will have a unique opportunity to participate in the First Salmon Ceremony at Kwantlen First Nation.</p>
<p>Surrey and Burnaby</p>	<p>2013/14</p>	<p>We Shall Have Peace</p>	<p>The goal of this conference is to provide a forum for discussing controversial issues in the classroom, and to be proactive and provide support for the 2014 summer launch of the Social Justice 12 curriculum and lesson plans for the study of Israel and Palestine. The goal of the new curriculum and lesson plans is to assist and support students to understand how conflict resolution, truth and reconciliation, and the application of critical and creative thinking provides for discussion and development of strategies and actions that lead to peaceful solutions, which allow people to move forward in a respectful, constructive, and productive manner.</p>