

BCTF Research Report

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SECTION II
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Teacher turnover in BC, 2001–2011

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By Colleen Hawkey, PhD
BCTF Research Department

Current demographic data show that overall, the education system in BC will be losing a significant pool of accumulated teacher expertise and knowledge over a short period of time.

Each year for the past five years, approximately 1,500 teachers have retired. This past year (2005–06) the figure was 1,805, up by about 200 over the previous year. With about 35% of the teaching workforce between the ages of 50 and 59, and an average retirement age of 59, we can expect retirements to remain close to 2005 levels for at least the next 5 years. This means we can expect approximately 10,000 retirements over the next 5 years.

However, the number of teachers retiring will not be consistent across districts. Some districts have a younger overall teaching force than others. As shown in the table, in the Greater Victoria district, for example, almost 47% of their 1,127 teachers are fifty years of age or over. By comparison, in Coquitlam 547, or 29%, of their 1,884 teachers are fifty years or older.

Smaller districts experiencing similar proportions of teacher turnover may be harder hit by the loss of teacher expertise because of their smaller overall teacher numbers. For example, 27% of teachers in Stikine are fifty or over and this represents 6 out of 22 teachers. In Vancouver Island West, 23 out of 35 teachers (65.7%) are in this age group.

In 2005 there were approximately 6,400 teachers (about 19%) with 5 or fewer years of teaching experience, and 1,135 teachers (about 3.4% of all teachers) with 1 or less years of teaching experience.

As new teachers enter the system and more experienced teachers leave, it is important to ensure that the wealth of experience and knowledge is transferred to those entering the profession.

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Teacher Demographic Overview, 2005-06

Dist#	District Name	Teacher HC (2005-06)	Teacher HC Age 50 and Over (2005-06)	Teacher HC % 50 and Over 2005-06)
5	Southeast Kootenay	326	141	43.3%
6	Rocky Mountain	214	85	39.7%
8	Kootenay Lake	358	173	48.3%
10	Arrow Lakes	45	22	48.9%
19	Revelstoke	82	30	36.6%
20	Kootenay-Columbia	265	135	50.9%
22	Vernon	532	173	32.5%
23	Central Okanagan	1,198	447	37.3%
27	Cariboo-Chilcotin	384	174	45.3%
28	Quesnel	243	111	45.7%
33	Chilliwack	678	203	29.9%
34	Abbotsford	1,084	321	29.6%
35	Langley	1,101	455	41.3%
36	Surrey	3,737	1,290	34.5%
37	Delta	1,002	432	43.1%
38	Richmond	1,312	448	34.1%
39	Vancouver	3,431	1,227	35.8%
40	New Westminster	427	126	29.5%
41	Burnaby	1,518	509	33.5%
42	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	910	300	33.0%
43	Coquitlam	1,884	547	29.0%
44	North Vancouver	1,033	386	37.4%
45	West Vancouver	398	128	32.2%
46	Sunshine Coast	247	113	45.7%
47	Powell River	145	55	37.9%
48	Howe Sound	253	77	30.4%
49	Central Coast	27	8	29.6%
50	Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte	57	17	29.8%
51	Boundary	107	43	40.2%
52	Prince Rupert	171	79	46.2%
53	Okanagan Similkameen	160	62	38.8%
54	Bulkley Valley	151	65	43.0%
57	Prince George	926	438	47.3%
58	Nicola Similkameen	167	70	41.9%
59	Peace River South	242	69	28.5%
60	Peace River North	344	94	27.3%
61	Greater Victoria	1,127	527	46.8%
62	Sooke	467	198	42.4%
63	Saanich	483	212	43.9%
64	Gulf Islands	104	60	57.7%
67	Okanagan Skaha	405	147	36.3%
68	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	851	374	43.9%
69	Qualicum	289	112	38.8%
70	Alberni	260	124	47.7%
71	Comox Valley	525	206	39.2%
72	Campbell River	372	180	48.4%
73	Kamloops-Thompson	855	349	40.8%
74	Gold Trail	122	48	39.3%
75	Mission	397	160	40.3%
78	Fraser-Cascade	137	67	48.9%
79	Cowichan Valley	542	208	38.4%
81	Fort Nelson	65	10	15.4%
82	Coast Mountains	356	142	39.9%
83	North Okanagan-Shuswap	443	184	41.5%
84	Vancouver Island West	35	23	65.7%
85	Vancouver Island North	103	48	46.6%
87	Stikine	22	6	27.3%
91	Nechako Lakes	291	80	27.5%
92	Nisga'a	40	15	37.5%
93	Conseil scolaire francophone	266	55	20.7%
	Total	33,716	12,588	37.3%

Source: Ministry of Education data

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