PSAs, an integral part of the BCTF, are sources of professional assistance and development. PSA members exchange ideas on research, teaching strategies, curriculum development, and other shared interests. The PSA Council advises the BCTF Executive Committee on PSA member concerns, educational policy, and professional development. By joining one or more PSAs, you gain an opportunity to share expertise and obtain information and experience. Every year at PSA annual conferences, thousands of PSA members enhance their skills and renew their dedication.

You can make a contribution simply by joining a PSA. The PSA fee and a BCTF member grant fund the PSA’s operations. By giving of yourself as a writer, a reporter, a speaker, an organizer, a chapter leader, a resource person, or an officer, you strengthen your PSA. Each PSA is unique—its strength is determined by its members.

Benefits to members:

**PSAs give members:**
- educational policy change updates
- networks via local chapters
- specialty publications
- support for exemplary practice
- support for new teachers
- teacher awards
- teaching resources and learning materials.

**PSAs host for members:**
- annual general meetings
- provincial and regional conferences
- other professional learning opportunities.

**PSAs provide a collective voice to:**
- help develop BCTF directions
- influence curriculum and assessment policies
- provide advice to the BCTF Executive Committee in order to influence the Ministry of Education.

**PSA conferences**
The October PSA day is especially for, and organized by, PSAs. PSA conferences are featured on the BCTF’s PD Calendar: [https://bctf.ca/PD-days.aspx](https://bctf.ca/PD-days.aspx).

**PSA websites and publications**
Many PSAs maintain web pages and email lists and produce publications. More information: bctf.ca/psawebsites.aspx. Join a PSA to share your expertise and obtain information.

You can join online at [bctf.ca/psa/join.aspx](https://bctf.ca/psa/join.aspx), or complete and return the form on this brochure.

Check with your local teachers’ union to see if you can use the local’s PD funds to cover a PSA membership fee.

The BCTF supports the following PSAs:

- Aboriginal Education Association (AEA)
- Association of BC Drama Educators (ABDCE)
- Association provincial des professeurs d’immersion et du programme francophone (APPIPC)
- BC Alternate Education Association (BCAEA)
- BC Art Teachers’ Association (BCATA)
- BC Association of Mathematics Teachers (BCAMT)
- BC Association of Teachers of Modern Languages (BCATML)
- BC Business Education Association (BCBEA)
- BC Cooperative Learning Association (BCCLA)
- BC Culinary Arts Specialist Association (BCCAS)
- BC Dance Educators’ Association (BCDEA)
- BC Early Career Teachers’ Association (BCECTA)
- BC Educators for Distributed Learning Provincial Specialist Association (BCEDL)
- BC Montessori Provincial Specialist Association (BCMPSA)
- BC Music Educators’ Association (BCMEA)
- BC Primary Teachers’ Association (BCPTA)
- BC School Counsellors’ Association (BCSCA)
- BC Science Teachers’ Association (BCSCTA)
- BC Social Studies Teachers’ Association (BCSSTA)
- BC Teacher-Librarians’ Association (BCTLA)
- BC Teachers for Peace & Global Education (PAGE)
- BC Teachers of English Language Arts (BCTELA)
- BC Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (BCTESOL)
- BC Technology Education Association (BCTEA)
- Computer-Using Educators of BC (CUEBC)
- Environmental Educators’ Provincial Specialist Association (EEPSA)
- Learning Assistance Teachers’ Association (LATA)
- Physical Health Education—British Columbia (PHEBC)
- Middle Years and Provincial Intermediate Teachers’ Association (myPITA)
- Specialist Association of Gifted Educators (SAGEBC)
- Teachers of Home Economics Specialist Association (THESA)
- Teachers of Inclusive Education (TIE-BC)
**OCTOBER 2019**

**BC Black Indigenous People of Colour (BCBIPOC) Educators Conference: Unlearning the Colonial | BC Teachers for Peace and Global Education (PAGE)**

**Saturday, October 5, 2019, Burnaby, BC.**

The aim of the BC BIPOC Educators Conference: Unlearning the Colonial, which will be held at Byrne Creek Secondary School in Burnaby, is to center the voices, experiences, and needs of Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour in public education who struggle daily with systemic racism, and interlocking systems of oppression. The hope is that attendees will forge new solidarities by developing a shared commitment to work for meaningful change in our educational practices, workplace, and union spaces. The time to usher in a real change in BC public education is now. BC BIPOC educators and students deserve and demand better. Website: [www.pagebc.ca](http://www.pagebc.ca). For more information, contact Shanee Prasad at shanee.d.prasad@gmail.com or Preet Lidder at preetlidden@gmail.com.

**Seeing Self in Story: Holding Space for Identity and Perspectives | BC Teachers of English Language Arts (BCTELA)**

**Thursday, October 24–25, 2019, Surrey, BC.**

Keynote speaker, David A. Robertson, is an award-winning writer who educates as well as entertains through his writings about Indigenous Peoples in Canada, reflecting their cultures, histories, and communities, as well as illuminating many contemporary issues. Join K–12 educators to explore topics that connect to identity, story, assessment, diversity, First Peoples, and a variety of exciting possibilities in ELA 10–12, featuring Faye Brownlie, Jo Chrona, Leyton Schnellert, and more BC educators sharing their practices. Faye Brownlie will be launching the 2nd edition of her bestselling book, *Grand Conversations, Thoughtful Responses: A Unique Approach to Literature Circles* during the social event. Website [www.bctela.ca](http://www.bctela.ca). For more information, contact psac46@bctf.ca.

**#Ignite | BC Early Career Teachers’ Association (BCECTA)**

**Thursday, October 24, 2019.**

This mini-conference will take place on the Thursday evening before the busy PSA Day conferences. Join us for food, drinks, and networking using the popular Ignite! format. Ignite is an event where several speakers have five minutes to speak on a topic, accompanied by 20 slides which are automatically advanced every 15 seconds. It is a snapshot into various passions and ideas, and a great opportunity to network with colleagues. We hope you will join us. Full details on our website [www.bcecta.ca](http://www.bcecta.ca). For more information, contact psac77@bctf.ca or bcecta@gmail.com.

**Realizing Resilience: Informed by Trauma, Influenced by Care | BC School Counsellors’ Association (BCSCA) Conference**

**Thursday, October 24–25, 2019, Richmond, BC.**

Join BCSCA for a two-day experience exploring trauma through a variety of lenses. Keynote speaker, Dr. Linda O’Neill, is a trauma specialist who works with schools to implement trauma-informed practices. Workshops include topics such as “Addressing ACEs in your practice,” “Preventing Vicarious Trauma and Provider Burnout,” “Keys to Unleashing Resilience,” and “Trauma Informed Practice in Schools.” On Thursday, we have Corey Reid and Dr. Linda Uyeda presenting about ACE’s, connecting the study to implications for working with children. Join us for two days of important conversations and valuable learning. Full details and registration on our website [bcscaconference.ca](http://bcscaconference.ca).

**Celebrating Languages Conference 2019 | BC Association of Teachers of Modern Languages (BCATML)**

**Friday, October 25, 2019, Saanich, BC.**

BCATML’s 2019 Celebrating Languages Conference will be held at Claremont Secondary School on Vancouver Island. The conference will be special as it coincides with Diwali weekend. We are proud to announce the award-winning Gurpreet Bains as this year’s conference keynote! She is the Modern Languages Department Head and Punjabi teacher at L.A. Matheson Secondary School in Surrey. Gurpreet embodies her beliefs in empowering students, engaging community, and thinking critically around culture, all through Punjabi language instruction. Conference co-chairs Kindra Harte, and Stacey Sveistrup look forward to welcoming all second language teachers, both elementary and secondary, at this year’s conference! Full details and registration on our website [www.bcatml.org/conference-info.html](http://www.bcatml.org/conference-info.html).

**New and Old traditions in Local Cuisine on the Westshore | British Columbia Culinary Arts Specialist Association (BCCASA)**

**Friday, October 25–26, 2019, Victoria, BC.**

Join BCCASA for a culinary filled two days as we explore and learn about a wide variety of local food and fermentations on offer in Victoria, and nearby communities. Sessions will include local First Nations traditional foods, highlights of the capital region’s sustainable food system, and a spectrum of fermented and roasted brews. Come prepared to get your hands dirty on a local farm, spend time in the great outdoors connecting with Indigenous food ways, and sipping on some of the finest Island brews around! Full details on our website [www.bccasa.ca](http://www.bccasa.ca). For more information, contact Lpilling@deltasd.bc.ca.

**Inspiring Teachers—Primary Leadership Conference | British Columbia Primary Teachers’ Association (BCPTA)**

**Friday, October 25, 2019, Nanaimo, BC.**

Keynote: “Teaching for Heart and Mind: Cultivating Emotion in an Ocean of Thinking” with Adrienne Gear. This inspirational professional development day will include widely-acclaimed presenters and classroom teachers who will focus on integration across the curriculum related to the redesigned curriculum and the goals of the BC Primary Program. Website [www.bcpta.ca/wordpress/](http://www.bcpta.ca/wordpress/). For more information, contact Margaret Cavin margaretcavin@hotmail.com.
BC Technology Education Association (BCTEA) Conference 2019
Friday, October 25, 2019, Burnaby, BC.
The BCTEA is hosting its annual conference at Alpha Secondary in Burnaby this year. Join us for a full day of workshops and collaborative discussion. All Tech Ed subject areas will be covered. Back by popular demand will be the sharing sessions from last year, giving educators’ time to quickly connect with new project ideas that meet the redesigned curriculum. In addition to all the workshops and activities will be our vendor market. Full details on our website www.bctea.org.

Making Connections—Supporting Students | Learning Assistance Teachers’ Association (LATA)
Friday, October 25, 2019, Vancouver, BC.
Keynote speaker, Katie Keier, renowned co-author of Catching Readers Before They Fall. Workshops include: Indigenous responses to challenging behaviors, Indigenous responses to learning challenges, Play is the Way, understanding ADHD, assistive technology apps, alternative and augmented communication devices, co-teaching, and many more. Our facilitators include Paul Pantaleo, Dr. Candice Murray, Dr. Marnie Ginsberg, Sarah Cohen, Julienne Harvey, and Dr. Sarah Wright-Cardinal. Lunch will be provided. There will be something for everybody. See you in October! Website www.latabc.com. Contact psac53@bctf.ca.

Achievement and ELL Learners | BC Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (BCTESOL)
Friday, October 25, 2019, Surrey, BC.
Keynote speaker, Carol Salva (MsSalvac), is the author of Boosting Achievement: Reaching Students with Interrupted or Minimal Education. She will also be hosting a smaller, in-depth session on her keynote topic. Conference attendees will be able to select from a wide range of workshops on English Language Learning (ELL), English for Academic Purposes (EAP), and ESL/EAL topics. Participants may receive resources, instructional strategies, and techniques for enhancing their practice. Workshops will be led by educators, innovators, and academics from across the province. Lunch is included. Target audience K–12 ELL Teachers and homeroom/subject teachers. Website www.bctesol.ca.
Contact Ebrahim Bawa Ebrahim.Bawa@abbyschools.ca.

BizTech 2019 | British Columbia Business Educators Association (BCBEA)
Friday, October 25, 2019, Surrey, BC.
Teaching intermediate, or high school business courses (5–12), or Career Life 10 and 12 courses? Love resources and curricular support? Then BizTech 2019 will be the place for you to get some classroom ready resources, prizes, and network connections! Conference fees (with lunch and prizes) begin at $50 for student teachers (include BCBEA membership fee), and $149 for BCTF members (include BCBEA membership). Keynote, unique sessions geared to Grade 5–12 teachers (careers animation, marketing, accounting, entrepreneurship, finance, Office, etc.), 5 Minute Slams (lesson sharing), networking, and prizes, will make this conference a PSA day favourite. Website www.bcbea.ca.
Contact martinrunge@sd28.bc.ca.

Teachers’ of Home Economics Specialist Association Conference (THESA)
Friday, October 25, 2019, Chilliwack, BC.
Come to scenic Chilliwack and explore Farm to Table in the Fraser Valley. Enjoy workshops, exhibits, time for reconnecting and networking, and more. Full details and registration on our website www.thesaconference.ca.

Sharing Lands and Reconciling Narratives | BC Social Studies Teachers’ Association (BCSSTA)
Friday, October 25, 2019, Vancouver, BC.
The BCSSTA is proud to announce Ryan McMahon as our keynote speaker this year. McMahon is an Anishinaabe comedian, writer, media maker, and community activist from Couchiching First Nation in Treaty 3 Territory. He provides audiences with an in-depth, challenging analysis of the Indigenous experience and the reconciliation movement. Ryan inspires audiences to play their part in building a more equitable country. Workshops, exhibitors, and our famous lunch will all be included. More information at www.bcssta.wordpress.com/10-2/.

Montessori Rocks—Digging Deeper for a Better Understanding | BC Montessori Teachers PSA (BCMTPSA)
Friday, October 25, 2019, Maple Ridge, BC.
Our annual Montessori conference is being hosted at Hammond Elementary School. This year’s focus is on Geology, timelines, and human behaviour. Renowned geologist, Mika McKinnon, is our keynote speaker. Irma Rodriguez will share her Montessori knowledge, and Anjeanette Dawson, our Aboriginal weaver, will be returning for a full day of weaving. Claudia Mann, from Fossilious, will be present, and Betsy A. Lockhart will share strategies on classroom management in a Montessori environment. Exciting day of learning! Website www.bcmontessoripsa.org or email psac78@bctf.ca.

Math for All | British Columbia Association of Mathematics Teachers (BCAMT)
Friday, October 25, 2019, Surrey, BC.
BCAMT is welcoming educators of all grade levels to experience what BCAMT does best: supporting diversity in learning, instruction, and assessment. This year, we are also featuring an additional Reggio-inspired Mathematics mini-conference facilitated by Janice Novakowski. The conference begins with powerful Ignite presentations from local educators. Speakers from all over BC will then share their expertise on the fundamental shifts in our curriculum, the initiatives in mathematics learning, and the world-wide focus on equity in the classroom. Join us in learning and sharing mathematical experiences that value and reflect the diversity of British Columbians. Conference website www.bcamt.ca/fall2019 Contact Deanna Brajich dbrajich@gmail.com and Susan Robinson srobinson@sd64.bc.ca.
Strengthening the “Core” Critical and Creative Thinking | Specialist Association of Gifted Educators in BC (SAGEBC) Friday, October 25, 2019, Coquitlam, BC.

Join Lisa Van Gemert, the Gifted Guru, and SAGEBC to bring the Core Competency of Thinking Skills to life in your classroom. Participants will learn different ways to help students to think more deeply and analytically to increase student engagement. Take home a treasure trove of practical strategies to further infuse differentiation, critical thinking skills, and creativity into the classroom. Email psac63@bctf.ca.

Middle Years and Provincial Intermediate Teachers Association (myPITA) 2019 Fall Conference Friday, October 25, 2019, Abbotsford, BC.

The annual myPITA conference provides a broad range of professional development opportunities for Grade 4–9 educators. With over 60 workshops in Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Math, Social and Emotional Development, Art, Physical Education, Social Justice, and more, there’s something for everyone. Gary Anaka’s ever-popular sessions on brain-based learning and myPITA’s own DianaCruchley are back, along with other seasoned myPITA presenters and many new faces as well. See you there! More information www.pita.ca Contact president@pita.ca.

Classrooms to Communities: Connecting People, Place, and Planet | Environmental Educators’ Provincial Specialist Association (EEPASA) Friday, October 25–26, 2019, Vancouver, BC.

Place-Based Learning is a core foundation of our curriculum in BC. Teachers and students across the province are excited to be inquiring about issues and priorities that matter most to our communities with a more ‘local lens.’ By helping educators to connect classroom and community through a focus on people, place, and planet, this professional development event hopes to inspire more promising practices and transformative learning in our schools and communities. The conference will consist of a variety of place-based workshops, experiences, gatherings, community-based excursions, and opportunities for collaboration and dialogue. Website www.c2c-bc.org/ conference/ Contact psac66@bctf.ca.

INTERWOVEN | British Columbia Art Teachers’ Association (BCATA) Friday, October 25–26, 2019, Vancouver, BC.

INTERWOVEN: Stories, Traditions, Media, and Art. The BCATA is excited to host Robert Davidson (www.robertdavidson.ca), one of Canada’s most respected and important contemporary visual artists. A Northwest Coast native of Haida and Tlingit Descent, he is a master sculptor of totem poles and masks and works in a variety of other media as a printmaker, painter, and jeweler. Ola Volo (www.olavolo.com) is a Canadian illustrator from Kazakhstan with a distinctive style drawn from history, multiculturalism, and folklore. Ola creates winding narratives that acknowledge the subtleties of human nature while celebrating the little surprises of everyday life. Two full days of workshops, gallery tours, and artist talks. Don’t miss this one! Website www.bcata.ca Contact memmott_d@surreyschools.ca.

Avoir la littératie à cœur | Association provinciale des professeurs d’immersion et du programme francophone (APPIPC) Friday, October 25–26, 2019, Vancouver, BC.

Sous le thème Avoir la littératie à cœur, le congrès offrira des ateliers pour les enseignants de la maternelle à la 12e année. Il nous fera plaisir d’accueillir comme conférencier le Dr. Roy Lyster qui présentera son approche intégrée en immersion qui intègre l’enseignement de la langue aux contenus disciplinaires et thématiques. On vous y attend en grand nombre! Pour plus d’information, contactez info@congresappipc.ca Website www.congresappipc.ca.

MOVE YOUR BODY! | Dance Conference 2019 BC Dance Educators’ Association (BCDEA) Friday, October 25, 2019, Vancouver, BC.

Workshops for ALL teachers and ALL levels! Contemporary Indigenous/Olivia Davies, Martha Graham Technique/Desirée Dunbar, Contemporary and Jazz/Christie Lee Manning, Tap/Troy McLaughlin, Musical Theatre/Jennifer Bishop, Movement and Literature/Cheryl Kay, Hip Hop/TwoFourSeven Company, and more! MOVE YOUR BODY! is a great conference to learn new movement and connect with teachers who incorporate movement into their classrooms. Website www.bcede.ca. Contact or email psac73@bctf.ca.

CATALYST 2019 Conference | British Columbia Science Teachers’ Association (BCScSTA) Friday, October 25, 2019, Richmond, BC.

This year the BCScSTA Catalyst conference returns to the Lower Mainland. The theme, CONVERGENCE: Bringing Perspectives Together, explores the common ground in School Science, Indigenous Knowledge, and Contemporary Science. Our conference keynote, Jo Chrona, will highlight the opportunities to understand the common benefit that is realized when learning involves both traditional views of Science, as well as Aboriginal Perspectives. The theme will be further explored in several workshops appropriate for all grade levels. Website www.bcscta.com. Contacts Phil Bakker Phil.Bakker@sd23.bc.ca and John Munro John.Munro@abbyschools.ca.

Moving Forward Together | Aboriginal Education Association (AEA) Friday, October 25, 2019, Fort Langley, BC.

Keynote speakers: Carey Newman, creator of the Witness Blanket, and Charlene Bearhead, Educational Lead for Moose Hide Campaign. Engage your mind and heart when you join us for our popular annual conference in Fort Langley. Discover effective ways to embed authentic Aboriginal Education in your K–12 classrooms. Learn how to take action towards reconciliation and engage your class/school in social justice initiatives such as Jordan’s Principle, Orange Shirt Day, Have a Heart Day, Moose Hide Campaign, Red Dress Project, and Justice for Indigenous Women (J4IW). Many workshops include hands-on activities and take-aways. Contact jmoir70@gmail.com.
BC Music Educators’ Association (BCMEA) 2019 Conference
Friday, October 25–26, 2019, Richmond, BC.

The BCMEA conference is the annual professional development opportunity of the British Columbia Music Educators’ Association. We endeavor to connect music educators of all types from across our province and beyond. Join us at the River Rock Resort for two full days of professional development sessions. Website www.bcmeaconference.com/.

CUEBC 2019 | Computer-Using Educators of BC (CUEBC)
Friday, October 25, 2019, Coquitlam, BC.

Computer-Using Educators of BC (CUEBC) are proud to present British Columbia’s longest-running educational technology professional development experience. For over 35 years, CUEBC has offered opportunities for all K–12 teachers to explore the changing world of technology within their classrooms. In 2019 we are focusing on the role of technology in the delivery of British Columbia’s revised curriculum. How can technology benefit your practice, improve learning outcomes for your students, and increase your ability to communicate student learning? Workshops include Office 365, Google Apps, Microbits, Spheres, Online Apps, AR/VR and many more! Contact registrar@cuebc.ca Website cuebc.ca.

Breaking Through | Association of B.C. Drama Educators (ABCDE)
October 25–26, 2019, Vancouver, BC.

ABCDE is excited to be offering their conference “Breaking Through” once again in Vancouver at the SFU Contemporary Arts Campus. We will be offering workshops in Drama K–12, Theatre Production, and Film. Contact Gordon Hamilton ghamilton@sd35.bc.ca or Katie Everson keverson@gmail.com Website https://abcde.ourconference.ca.

Dewey to Diversity | British Columbia Teacher-Librarians’ Association (BCTLA)
Friday, October 25, 2019, Surrey, BC.

This year’s BCTLA conference “Dewey to Diversity” will look a little different. More interaction, more take-aways, more connections! After our own Dominique Sullivan gives the keynote, we will break into facilitated discussion groups, featuring current topics like ‘Digital Literacy,’ ‘Inquiry, STEAM, and more. After lunch there will be workshops on topics such as ‘The Deep Dark Web,’ ‘Collection Curation,’ ‘Diversity in Graphic Novels,’ and ‘Heritage Fairs.’ These will all include a hands-on component to take back and put into use. There will also be specialized sessions for new teacher-librarians. Please come and join us for an interactive experience. More information contact Jennifer Fox jafox@telus.net Website www.bctla.ca.

2019 Physical and Health Education Conference | Physical Health Education BC (PHEBC)
Friday, October 25, 2019, New Westminster, BC.

PHEBC and Douglas College have partnered for the past 15 years to organize the Physical and Health Education conference. This year the conference will provide a wide variety of sessions that will engage both the general and specialist teacher. Sessions will include Physical Education (active, assessment, and coaching), and Health (physical, mental, and sexual) sessions. Come be active, engaged, and connect with like-minded educators. PHEBC will be hosting their AGM during lunch, and are looking for volunteers to become regional contacts and take on different roles within the PSA. For more information email psac54@bctf.ca or visit www.bctf.ca/pebc.

FEBRUARY 2020

Challenge and Change 2020 | BC Alternative Education Association (BCEAA)
Thursday, February 13–14, 2020, Vancouver, BC.

The 33rd annual conference is of interest to alternate education teachers, education assistants, counsellors, and administrators working with at-risk youth. Featuring more than 30 different sessions focused on helping at-risk youth, and presented in varying styles and topics including technology, filmmaking, art, outdoor education, and mental health. Keynote: Ivan E. Coyote. More details on the website www.bceaa.com or contact DJ Pauls, conference co-ordinator conference@bceaa.com.

Crosscurrents 2020 | Teachers of Inclusive Education British Columbia (TIEBC)
Thursday, February 20–21, 2020, Richmond, BC.

Keynote speaker, Zach Anner, is an award-winning comedian, show host, and public speaker. In 2011, he won his own travel show on the Oprah Winfrey Network, Rollin’ With Zach. Two months early, underweight and under-prepared for life, Zach entered the world with cerebral palsy and an uncertain future. By his thirtieth birthday, he had grown into an adult with a career in entertainment, millions of fans, a loving family, and friends who would literally carry him up mountains. With a mixture of hilarity and heart, hear Zach share his miraculous story. Crosscurrents hosts speakers on a range of topics related to inclusive education. Contact tiebcpresident@gmail.com Website www.tiebcbrochure.com.

APRIL 2020

2020 Digital Learning Symposium | BC Educators for Distributed Learning (BCEDL)
Sunday, April 19–21, 2019, Burnaby, BC.

Innovative learning models supporting new curriculum in digital learning environments. Over 300 educators, technology co-ordinators, curriculum developers, and administrators, K–12 and post-secondary attended last year’s three-day symposium. Contact dcomrie3@gmail.com Website www.canelearn.net/symposium20/.