

Examples of Past Regional Social Justice Conferences (Some conference titles are linked to articles)

Zone/Local	Date	Name of Conference	Conference Description
Metro Fraser Valley and Metro West Surrey, Coquitlam, VESTA, Delta and Langley	February 2020	Leaping into Action: Teachers Rise for Climate Justice	The overall goal of this conference is to enable classroom teachers interested in Social Justice from locals all across the Northwestern Forested Mountains Ecoregion (California, Oregon, Washington, and BC) to create networks of mutual support for the necessary work in the areas of ecojustice, antiracism, economic justice, LGBTQ2S+ rights, Status of Women and Peace and Global Education.
Vancouver Island South Victoria, Sooke, and Saanich	February 13–14, 2020	Tapestry: Climate Justice Conference	The purpose of this grant application is to run a climate justice strand concurrently with the regular, tri-local Tapestry conference. This will allow us to run workshops specifically oriented to teaching climate issues and organizing for climate justice. The conference is open to all teachers, parents, and students.
Haida Gwaii and Nisga'a	April 2018	Justice of Place: Indigenous Ways, Social Justice, and Teaching	This conference will enhance the capacity of BCTF members to act on their professional responsibility to support the social development of the communities in our region and beyond. Conference topics will include reconciliation, Indigenous sovereignty, Indigenous ways of being, antipoverty issues, environmental justice, women's rights, antiracism, gender and LGBTQ equity, violence prevention, and trauma-informed approaches to teaching and learning. These topics will be addressed through the lens of place-based education and social justice. Haida and other Indigenous ways of relating to each other and the land itself will help inform approaches to social justice teaching and learning. Elders, students, teachers, and community members will share place-based knowledge at the conference.
Surrey, Langley, Delta, Coquitlam, and Vancouver (VESTA)	April 2018	Reclaiming Common Ground Cross-Border Conference	We invite teachers and activists to examine and re-imagine the public school as common ground for the nurturing of the progressive democratic ideals of equity, inclusion, and justice. We encourage participants to reflect on their students' development as citizens capable of understanding issues of poverty, racism, homophobia, disabilities, and culture. Teachers are in a position to respond to these themes in the classroom in a way that upholds basic democratic ideals and principles. Teachers from British Columbia, Oregon, and Washington will come together to connect across borders in this first-ever cross-border social justice conference.

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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 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.
Surrey and Burnaby	2013–14	We Shall Have Peace	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.
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.
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.

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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.
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.
Chilliwack, Langley, and Surrey	2008–09	Social Justice 12 Conference: Focus on LGBTQ and Faith	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.