



Professional Development News

February 2022

Volume 18 Issue 1



2021—2022 PD Committee

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A Note From the PD Chair...

It has been a busy fall, and Members are tired. Keep in mind that many free workshops of all types are offered by the BCTF to support staffs in need of support. Check out all the workshops here <https://www.bctf.ca/services-guidance/training-and-education> The free Starling Minds Mental Health Toolkit is also available free to members who want support for themselves. Check out that support here [https://www.bctf.ca/services-guidance/wellness/access-online-mental-health-therapy-\(starling-minds\)](https://www.bctf.ca/services-guidance/wellness/access-online-mental-health-therapy-(starling-minds))

During stressful times, it can be helpful to know that the DTA and the Delta School District have a positive working relationship. Over the decades, this way of working forward through decisions and disagreements has colloquially been referred to as, “The Delta Way.” As such, the DTA has been an active participant on the District Day Steering Committee, working together to create opportunities for learning about our legal and moral obligations towards Truth & Reconciliation. Many of us worry that we have no right to teach a story that is not ours, and indeed I have shared the same concerns in the past. Here is a statement that helped me. “To our allies: **LISTEN**. Listen to Black leadership, listen to Indigenous and people of color community leaders, listen to *BIPOC LGBTQ2+ leaders. Seriously. Listen to those who have been voicing the direction and the solutions since the first injustices of colonialism. EDUCATE YOURSELVES. Don’t expect others to educate you ... Know that you are gonna mess up, be open to learning, be open to getting feedback, be open to deep growth, and keep going.”* Remember, anti-racism is an action word. You got this.

*<https://www.nativemovement.org/nm-blog/2020/6/19/open-letter-to-our-supporters>

in solidarity,

Jeanie McKay, DTA PD Chair



Letters from the Trenches

Submitted by Noemia Cullen, NDSS

For me, trying new things in my practice can be a stress inducing exercise--even with the number of years I've been at this job. Yet, I often push myself to try new things because I have never regretted what I've learned from those experiences. When I decided to teach English First Peoples 12 at North Delta Secondary, my stress level was particularly high. Much of it was fueled by the worry of messing up, of doing more harm than good, of not knowing if what I was saying to students was accurate or even credible--I'm just a visitor and learner.

With the patient support of colleagues at the district level, I soon realized that to not address the sensitive and sometimes painful experiences told by Indigenous authors and to not share those stories with students, would be a far greater disservice to their work. I needed to get over myself. So I now teach EFP12. This will be my second year. Last year we offered 2 blocks and this year we have 3. I tell my students at the beginning of the

course that my teaching of EFP12 is my conscious participation in being an ally for Truth and Reconciliation. I'm trying to do a small part.

There have been bumps in the road. I have to remind myself and students that there is no one single voice or understanding; that the stereotype of the wise Indigenous voice is just as damaging as any negative stereotype inflicted on Indigenous people. My students and I are moving towards an understanding of the strength and resiliency that exists in Indigenous literatures and the equality of oral story to written story. We are learning that we need to know ourselves to recognize and begin to understand the experiences of the writers we are exploring. There's just so much my students and I have gained. A lot of these ideas already exist in our English classrooms, but because we are aware of the importance of the work being done around Truth and Reconciliation, sometimes we may be hesitant to be a part of that discussion. Let's not be.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

DTA PD Fund Reminders



- Any active dues paying member may apply for PD funding.
- PD funding is based on the school calendar year July 1—June 30.
- As an active dues paying member you are eligible for up to \$600.00 per year for regular PD, and \$1,500.00 per year for Credit Courses (T4A's are issued) until the fund runs out.
- Remember to follow the steps on p. 2 of your application to help streamline the process.
- Credit course applications must be received before the course begins.
- Applications for regular PD must be submitted to the DTA at least 14 days in advance.
- Professional Development must be consistent with the necessary factors and key criteria of the BCTF Professional Development Lens.
- The PD fund can not pay for subscriptions, supplies, or entry to public attractions.

Did you know that there are Professional Standards for BC Educators to “guide the practice, conduct and competence of B.C. teachers?” I’m sure you remember some of them from your days in the Faculty of Education, but when is the last time you reviewed them? You’ll find that you’re already doing most of them, don’t worry, but did you know that there is a new, 9th Standard that arose from the TRC report? In 2015 The Truth and Reconciliation Commission published a report including 94 “calls to action,” urging change in policies and programs in a concerted effort to repair the harm caused by residential schools and move forward with reconciliation. As a result, this new 9th Standard teaches us that, “Educators must respect and value the history of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada and the impact of the past on the present and the future. Educators contribute towards truth, reconciliation and healing. Educators foster a deeper understanding of ways of knowing and being, histories and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.”

So here we are, teaching, living, and learning on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Tsawwassen, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Watuth Nations and all of the Hun'qumi'num speaking people. We have heard that acknowledged at the beginning of many meetings recently, and now it is time to bring some of this teaching into our classrooms. Not generic First Nation lessons, lessons actually about the folks upon whose land we live. Since time immemorial, they have been stewards and guardians of the land that we have had the privilege to work, learn, play, and grow on. The archeological and oral proof exists. And now we need to learn to walk the talk.

You can find all of the Standards here. I hope you have a moment to review them, because you’ll see what an awesome job you’re doing already on the other eight standards. Now let’s put the same joy into learning how to do the 9th 😊

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/teach/teacher-regulation/standards-for-educators/edu_standards.pdf

SAVE THE DATE - FEB 18, 2022

February 18, 2022 is District Day in Delta. Every second year, the DTA agrees to support the use of one professional day by the District, to further District and Ministry professional development goals and themes. In light of this, a Steering Committee was struck, including representation from both DTA and CUPE, to design an amazing day for all Delta School District employees. Because of the collaborative design process, and our past understanding of the value of a true district professional day, the DTA supports the plan that all teachers will participate in District Day on February 18th. Take your choice of workshops in the morning sessions, and join us for a powerful session with Kevin Lamoureux after lunch. Make sure to sign up for workshop on the district day website:



<https://deltalearns.ca/districtday/>

PD OPPORTUNITIES



myPita
PROUDLY PRESENT

Whistler

2022 MAY 20 HILTON WHISTLER RESORT

MORNING SESSIONS 9:30-11:45

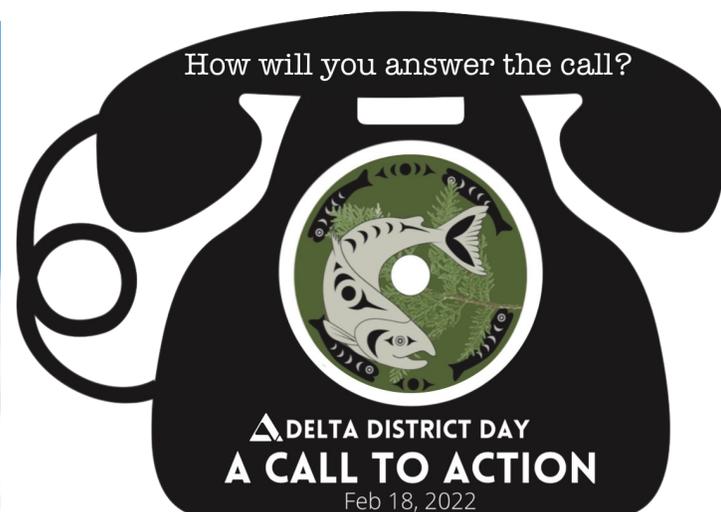
- Sound Assessment Design
Aligning Assessment with Learning Goals
- Smarter Science Inquiry Design
- The Strategy is YOU!
Empowering Approaches for Challenging Behaviours

AFTERNOON SESSIONS 1:15-3:30

- Using Assessment to Communicate and Report Student Learning
- Science is a Verb
Demos and Discrepant Events to Generate Inquiry
- Building a Kinder Class

SPRING.OURCONFERENCE.CA

BCCTF



Here's why we're doing this...



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjx2zDvyzSU>

TRC Mini Documentary Senator Murray Sinclair on Reconciliation.