



# Professional Development News

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## 2022—2023 PD Committee

Jeanie McKay, Chair — *NDSS*

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## A Note From the PD Chair...

Did you know that Professional Development Days were added to the school calendar after years of BCTF Provincial and Local advocacy? Fifty years ago we collectively achieved these days because we recognized the vital need for time during the year to improve our practice, our skills, and our ability to stay current. And in local bargaining, the Delta Teachers' Association won language supporting the funding and control of our professional learning. We also achieved control over allotment of funds, and our funding is connected to salary increases. Big win!

So what does this mean fifty years later? Teachers won these days, and teachers need to maintain quality and control over these days. We are a Union of Professionals; we get to figure out what we need to maintain our professional needs. So how do we do this in times of increased pressure from above, and at times frankly, while working with a certain amount of professional exhaustion? A great way is to get involved with your school PD Committee. Seek input from your colleagues about what they need. Get your SAC involved in deciding how your in-house PD Days can be used. It is only by exercising SAC power through contractual rights that we maintain that control. Use the template provided by the DTA and get SAC working with the PD Committee. Work together to recommend both the content *and* rules for how, *and where* PD can happen. You don't have to be locked into PD at your own school, but you do have to first follow a SAC process to set up how your school will deal with it.

What are some other ways to energize your PD? Dig around for cool PD opportunities and apply for funding from your Principal and from the DTA. But here's a pro tip... the more you get involved in great PD the more you'll love doing your job. You'll feel energized and better equipped. You'll feel like you're in front of the ball, not running on top like a lumberjack on a log. As Yoda would recommend, "You will find only what you bring in. Your path you must decide."

*in solidarity,*

*Jeanie McKay, DTA PD Chair*

## ***Inspired learning comes from inspired teaching.—Do you need some help along that journey?***

As DTA PD Chair, I have always recognized the value of working well with our District. We operate using the same contract, and we have the same professional development interests, needs and regulations. This translates across the many facets of our working relationships, and over the years has colloquially become known as The Delta Way. With this in mind, I am wholeheartedly endorsing the work of Brooke Moore and her team at DMEC. Here is a message from Brooke.

*For many of us, changing how we communicate about student learning is causing questions about how we organize and design our practice. If you are asking questions like, "how do I want to design my mark book?" or "if I don't use numbers, how will I give feedback in a way that makes sense?" or even "how does shifting from marks to rubrics impact relationships with students and my authority as their teacher?" then you may enjoy the rich array of examples and exercises gathered on Delta Learns Powerful Learning website. This site shows how the aspects of assessment for learning line up with First Peoples Principles of Learning and inclusive approaches to learning ([click here to see an example of this alignment re learning targets](#)). There are examples from Delta teachers embedded throughout, examples like markbooks, rubrics, and workflow. Everything on this site ([www.deltalearns.ca/powerfullearning](http://www.deltalearns.ca/powerfullearning)) can make changing to the new reporting order easier, but the work is much more rewarding than that. Please reach out to Brooke Moore to add examples of your process / approach to assessment. You can also add your ideas to these [subject specific Google Folders](#). The more we can help one another see how using feedback and proficiency scales to further learning can look and feel, the better we will all be.*

*By: Brooke Moore (she/her), District Principal of Inquiry and Innovation*

*Come visit Inspired Learning at [www.deltalearns.ca](http://www.deltalearns.ca)*

## ***Don't miss the deadline!***

We have a request. Please honour application deadlines. We are receiving an increasing number of late applications, resulting in a serious amount of extra work for our office staff and the PD Committee. All late applications are automatically denied with the opportunity of appeal, as per the rules of our fund. But here's what happens afterwards. Our office staff has to contact you saying you have been denied, you contact her to ask how to appeal, even though it is on the website. You write an appeal and send it to the office. Our office staff sets up a blind process for adjudication at the next PD Committee meeting. Seven of us read your appeal, discuss the merits of your appeal, and vote on whether to fund the application or not. Our office staff then has to write a letter explaining about your result, and then she has to write again because you forgot to send in your receipt. It's that comical. Or that frustrating.

Here's what happens if you send it in on time.

You send it in. I approve it. You send in your receipt when you've finished the PD. You get your money. Fast. Easy.

So please Email your completed application for regular PD **14 days in advance** of your proposed PD. The exception for that deadline is credit courses. If it is an application about a university credit course you can email it up to the day before the course begins, based on the dates advertised on the university website.

All deadlines and details are on the website under the Professional Development Tab <https://www.deltateachers.org/>

## ***PD fund reminders...***

Have you attended a course or conference and not received your reimbursement? Please send your receipt to the DTA office asap. The deadline is June 29, 2023.

### **Sign on the dotted line**

Remember that your application for PD funding requires 3 signatures: yours, your Principal's, and your DTA PD Rep.

### **Plan ahead for Intersession Credit Courses**

Do you know you'll be taking credit courses in the spring? Email the DTA with your Credit Course application form once you know your course number.

One course per application please, since we only reimburse upon completion.

### **Are you working on your thesis/main project?**

The DTA funds that course only on proof of completion, and the fund will not pay for extensions.

If you know that you will not complete your thesis by June 30, you will need to re-apply for funding as of the next school year.