
MINUTES OF THE BC TEACHERS' COUNCIL



February 5 to February 7, 2025

Last Revised: February 11, 2025

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FEBRUARY 5, 2025

ATTENDANCE

BCTC: Jim Iker, Adrienne Demers, Jatinder Bir, Lisa Kishkan, Jelana Bighorn, Carol Arnold, Gunita Gupta, Danielle Neer, Terence Berting, Michelle LaBounty, Vandy Britton (virtual), Anne Tenning (virtual), Mary Mollineaux, Lesya Balsevich, Bob Holmes, Jo Cornthwaite, Doug Sheppard, Sarvi Brent

Regrets: None

Guests:

Kathryn Krishna	Deputy Minister, Minister of Education and Child Care (ECC)
Marian Riedel	Vancouver Island University (VIU)
Rachel Moll	Vancouver Island University (VIU)
Gloria Ramirez	Thompson Rivers University (TRU)
Amanda Russett	Thompson Rivers University (TRU)
Dana Bell	University of Victoria (UVic)

Staff: Shawn McMullin, Matthew Cooke, Dijana Gres, Eric Tso, Vicki Wayne, Kim Dionne

Public:

Daniel Shiu	BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)
Christine Stewart	BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)
Trish Coft	BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)
Todd Milford	University of Victoria (UVic)
Shannon Behan	BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association (BCPVPA)
Jackie Buitelaar	Trinity Western University (TWU)
Elsa Plican	BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)

The Chair, Jim Iker, called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

• **Land Acknowledgement**

The Chair acknowledged with gratitude the Territories of the Indigenous Peoples within our province, Traditional Keepers of this Land, and the many distinct First Nations with different cultures, languages and unique dialects.

• **Observance of Black History Month**

The Chair acknowledged that February is Black History Month when people across Canada participate in festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black people in Canada and their communities. The theme this year is *Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations*.

- **Observance of International Day of Education (January 24)**

The Chair acknowledged that the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed January 24 as International Day of Education. The theme this year is *AI and education: Preserving human agency in a world of automation*.

2. UPDATES AND DIALOGUE WITH KATHRYN KRISHNA, DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE (ECC)

The Chair welcomed Deputy Minister Krishna, who joined the meeting virtually.

The BCTC and the Deputy Minister engaged in dialogue regarding the following:

- ECC Mandate Letter, including priorities such as Numeracy, Literacy, Reconciliation, cooperation with FNEESC, improvement of teacher certification processes, and reduction of barriers for internationally educated teachers.
- BCTC's topics of interest, such as literacy support to school districts, learning disability programs for students, early literacy, and sustained funding.

The Council thanked the Deputy Minister for the collaborative dialogue.

- **Approval of Agenda**

LABOUNTY/NEER

Motion: That the agenda for February 5, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS AND REPORTING OUT

- **Correspondence**

The BCTC reviewed correspondence received since their October 2024 meeting. Correspondence will be discussed under specific agenda items throughout the February 2025 meeting.

The Chair informed that the BCTC will be going into private later this morning.

- **Chair's Report**

- **BCTC Annual Report 2023/24**

The report highlights the work completed between May 2023 and April 2024 with a focus on the BCTC workplan and goals. The Report was posted on the BCTC website on January 10, 2025.

A notification email about the annual report was shared with certificate holders and education partner groups on January 22, 2025.

The BCTC and TRB staff are working on the 2024/2025 annual report that will be released before the end of 2025.

○ **BCTC Turnover and Transition**

This year, the BCTC will welcome new appointments from the following partner groups: BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF), BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC), and the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC).

The onboarding process will be conducted between April and May. Outgoing members are welcome to attend the spring BCTC meeting with *voice but no vote* and no participation in in-private discussions.

○ **Upcoming ABCDE Teacher Education Roundtable 2025**

The next Roundtable will be hosted by the University of the Fraser Valley at their Mission campus on May 1–2, 2025. The theme for this year's Roundtable is *Human Flourishing*. The Chair will attend along with 2-3 other BCTC members.

○ **BCTC Meeting Dates – Spring, Fall 2025 and Winter 2026**

The Chair reminded the BCTC of the following BCTC meeting dates:

- Spring 2025: May 27-29
- Fall 2025: October 7-9
- Winter 2026: to be determined

The members were provided with a couple of three-day options for the winter 2026 meeting for consideration. The decision was to be announced on Day 3 of the meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Chair invited members of the public to address the BCTC.

Public members introduced themselves.

5. REVIEW OF BCTC WORKPLAN 2024-2025

● **Review statuses of 2024-2025 goals**

The Chair reminded the BCTC that the 2024/2025 Workplan was developed at the June 2024 meeting. Additionally, that the BCTC completed their review and update of the BCTC Goals and Implementation Strategies 2024/2025 in October 2024. The next review will be this spring.

BCTC 2024-2025 goals:	Status
Goal 1: To communicate and promote the <i>Professional Standards for BC Educators</i> .	Ongoing
Goal 2: To communicate and amplify Standard 9 and all it encompasses, including: decolonization, Reconciliation, anti-oppression and anti-racism education.	Ongoing
Goal 3: To continue the review and revisions of the Certification Standards.	Ongoing
Goal 4: To engage BC TEPs and education partners on recommendations and action items stemming from the 2021/22 New Teacher Survey.	Amended

<p>Goal 5: To continue to work with teacher education programs to explore ways to make BC teacher education programs more accessible including but not limited to online programming, blended learning and removing barriers to accessibility, including financial ones.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Goal 6: To actively engage in professional learning so that Council members are better supported in understanding the role and mandate of BCTC, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the TRC Calls to Action, DRIPA and Distinctions Based Approach, • decolonization, Reconciliation, anti-oppression, and anti-racism, • inclusion. 	<p>Amended Ongoing</p>

6. TEP APPROVAL AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (TEPARC)

Jim Iker and Lisa Kishkan provided an overview of the committee’s work since the October 2024 meeting. The Chair advised that the BCTC will go into private to deliberate on a TEP Process B changes before them.

• **Committee Report Out and Recommendations**

- Update on Cyclical Reviews
 - UBC Structured Dialogue took place on November 5, 2024. A summary report will be provided on February 6, 2025.
 - UVic Structured Dialogue will take place on February 25, 2025. Gunita Gupta and Mary Mollineaux will represent the BCTC.
 - UBCO Structured Dialogue has been rescheduled to 2025.
 - SFU Structured Dialogue has been rescheduled to 2026.
 - VIU Structured Dialogue has been rescheduled to the fall of 2025.
 - TWU Structured Dialogue has been rescheduled to May 2025.
 - TRU Maintenance Review was held on November 19-21, 2024.
- Changes to Existing Programs (Process B)
 - VIU – B.Ed. Field Experience Course Changes (NOI received Nov. 7, 2024)
 - TWU – Supplemental Practicum (NOI received Nov. 13, 2024)
 - TWU – New Minor (NOI received Nov. 13, 2024)
 - UVic – Elementary PDP Course Offering (NOI received Nov. 22, 2024)
- TEPAR Framework Process E – Exceptional Concerns Protocol
 - The Committee is currently mapping out the formal Process E procedures.

KISHKAN/BIR

Motion: To move into private at 11:16 am

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CARRIED

HOLMES

Motion: To move out of private at 12:04 pm

.....
CARRIED

- **Reporting on Motions coming out of private**

KISHKAN

Motion carried in private: That the BCTC approve the VIU B.Ed. Field Experience Course Changes proposal as a Minor Program Change.

..... CARRIED

GUPTA

Motion carried in private: That the BCTC approve the Uvic Elementary PDF Course Offering proposal as a Minor Program Change.

..... CARRIED

7. MAINTENANCE REVIEW OF THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY (TRU)

The Program Assessment Team (PAT) members, Jo Cornthwaite and Michelle LaBounty, provided an overview of the Maintenance Review that occurred at TRU on November 19-21, 2024. The PAT Chair, Jo Cornthwaite, acknowledged the contributions of external PAT members Sheryl MacMath (UFV), and Leanne Atkinson (SD 58).

The BCTC Chair welcomed Gloria Ramirez and Amanda Russett from TRU to comment and respond to questions.

8. BCTC in private

Motions coming out of private to be reported in public on February 6, 2025.

BIR/KISHKAN

Motion: To move into private at 1:19 pm

..... CARRIED

CORNTHWAITE

Motion: To move out of private at 3:40 pm

..... CARRIED

9. REVIEW OF MINUTES – DEFERRED TO DAY 2

10. ADJOURNMENT

LABOUNTY/BALSEVICH

Motion: That the meeting of February 5, 2025, be adjourned.

..... CARRIED

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 3:40 PM

FEBRUARY 6, 2025

ATTENDANCE

- BCTC:** Jim Iker, Adrienne Demers, Jatinder Bir, Lisa Kishkan, Jelana Bighorn, Carol Arnold, Gunita Gupta, Danielle Neer, Terence Berting, Michelle LaBounty, Vandy Britton, Mary Mollineaux, Lesya Balsevich, Bob Holmes, Jo Cornthwaite, Doug Sheppard, Sarvi Brent
- Regrets:** Anne Tenning
- Guests:** Karen Ragoonaden University of British Columbia (UBC)
John Yamamoto University of British Columbia (UBC)
- Staff:** Shawn McMullin, Matthew Cooke, Dijana Gres, Eric Tso, Vicki Wayne, Kim Dionne
- Public:** Daniel Shiu BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)
Trish Coft BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)
Cynthia McCarthy Trinity Western University (TWU)
Gloria Ramirez Thompson Rivers University (TRU)
Amanda Russett Thompson Rivers University (TRU)
Andrew Jang BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)
Bailey Blencowe BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)

The Chair, Jim Iker, called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

- **Land Acknowledgement**

Chair, Jim Iker, acknowledged with gratitude the Territories of the Indigenous Peoples within our province, Traditional Keepers of this Land, and the many distinct First Nations with different cultures, languages and unique dialects.

- **Observance of International Day of Women and Girls in Science (February 11)**

The Chair acknowledged that February 11th is the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly back in 2015. This day is an opportunity to promote equality and equal access for women and girls in science.

- **Approval of Agenda**

BRITTON/CORNTHWAITE

Motion: That the agenda for February 6, 2025, be approved.

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CARRIED

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- **Reporting on Motions coming out of private (TEPARC)**

LABOUNTY

Motion: That, upon review of the PAT report for the Thompson Rivers University Maintenance Review (November 19-21, 2024), the BCTC confirms that the Teacher Education Program at TRU conditionally meets the TEP Approval Standards.

CARRIED

CORNTHWAITE

Motion: That the BCTC refer the TRU PAT Report Recommendation to TEPARC to establish the timelines and conditions.

CARRIED

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Chair invited members of the public to address the BCTC.

Public members introduced themselves.

3. EXTERNAL PARTNERS REPORT OUT

- **K-12 Workforce Groups**

- **Teacher Mentorship Working Group**

- Michelle LaBounty represented the BCTC on December 10, 2024, and reported on the following:

- Call for Proposals: Provincial Teacher Mentorship Pilot Program.
 - Next meeting to be held in the spring of 2025 on a date to be confirmed.
-

4. STRUCTURED DIALOGUE – UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (UBC)

Lesya Balsevich and Carol Arnold delivered a report on the Structured Dialogue conducted at UBC's Vancouver campus on November 5, 2024.

The Chair welcomed UBC representatives, Karen Ragoonaden and John Yamamoto, to comment and respond to questions.

5. EXTERNAL PARTNERS REPORT OUT – CONT'D

- **K-12 Workforce Groups**

- **Data Work Group**

- Gunita Gupta represented the BCTC in-person on January 23, 2025, and reported on the following:

- Review of Draft Staff Survey Questions.
- High-level overview of the Draft Annual Workforce Report.

○ **Communications Work Group**

- Gunita Gupta represented the BCTC on December 4, 2024, in Jatinder Bir's absence, and reported on the following:
 - Terms of Reference
 - Draft communications plan and building a web presence on the ministry website about the K-12 Workforce Plan and initiatives.
-

6. TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP (TEPWG)

BCTC Chair and ABCDE representative, Vandy Britton, provided an overview of the TEPWG work since the October 2024 meeting. The following was discussed:

- ABCDE Symposium – Spotlight on Rural and Remote Education on November 21, 2024
 - Workforce Development – Expression of Interest for Dispersed Teacher Education Programs
 - Consultation with TEPs – Certification Standards Phase Four (Academic Preparation)
 - Call for Proposals regarding First Nations Community-Based Teacher Education Programs
 - Guidelines for Proposals from BC Teacher Education Programs Regarding Methods of Delivery
 - Familiarization Requirements
-

7. REVIEW OF MINUTES (DAY 1 AND DAY 2)

SHEPPARD/NEER

Motion: That the minutes from February 5 & February 6, 2025, be adopted.

CARRIED

8. ADJOURNMENT

BIR/BRITTON

Motion: That the meeting of February 6, 2025, be adjourned.

CARRIED

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 3:21 PM

FEBRUARY 7, 2025

ATTENDANCE

- BCTC:** Jim Iker, Adrienne Demers, Jatinder Bir, Lisa Kishkan, Jelana Bighorn, Carol Arnold, Gunita Gupta, Danielle Neer, Terence Berting, Vandy Britton, Anne Tenning (virtual), Lesya Balsevich, Bob Holmes, Jo Cornthwaite, Doug Sheppard, Sarvi Brent, Michelle LaBounty (PM), Mary Mollineaux (virtual - PM)
- Regrets:** Michelle LaBounty (AM), Mary Mollineaux (AM)
- Guests:** Donnaree Nygard Acting Commissioner for Teacher Regulation
- Staff:** Shawn McMullin, Matthew Cooke, Dijana Gres, Andrew Crawford, Eric Tso, Vicki Wayne, Kim Dionne, Helen Grieve
- Public:**

Daniel Shiu	BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)
Christine Stewart	BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)
Trish Coft	BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)
Tricia Stobbe	Christian Educators of BC (CEBC)
Cynthia McCarthy	Trinity Western University (TWU)
Gloria Ramirez	Thompson Rivers University (TRU)
Amanda Russett	Thompson Rivers University (TRU)
Chris Beneteau	BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)

The Vice-Chair, Adrienne Demers, called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

• **Land Acknowledgement**

Vice-Chair, Adrienne Demers, acknowledged with gratitude the Territories of the Indigenous Peoples within our province, Traditional Keepers of this Land, and the many distinct First Nations with different cultures, languages and unique dialects.

• **Observance of Pink Shirt Day (February 26)**

The Chair acknowledged Pink Shirt Day to raise awareness of bullying, particularly in schools.

• **Approval of Agenda**

KISHKAN/HOLMES

Motion: That the agenda for February 7, 2025, be approved.

.....
CARRIED

• **Winter 2026 Meeting Dates – Decision**

BCTC members voted on their preferred dates for the winter 2026 meeting. The Chair confirmed that the winter meeting of the BCTC will be held on February 4-6, 2026.

.....
CARRIED

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Chair invited members of the public to address the BCTC.
Public members introduced themselves.

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3. NEW TEACHER SURVEY WORKING GROUP (NTSWG)

Lisa Kishkan and Terence Berting provided an overview of the group's work since the October 2024 meeting.

• **Report Out – Updates and Recommendations**

- NTS 2021/22 Recommendations and Action items
 - Overview of work completed to date and proposed change in direction with NTS action items.
 - Review and discussion of revised Table 2 pertaining to BCTC/TEP action Items of regulatory nature.

KISHKAN/HOLMES

Motion: That the BCTC approved the BCTC/TEP collaborative action items of a regulatory nature pertaining to proposed changes in the scope of Structed Dialogue and Maintenance Reviews coming from the New Teacher Survey 2021/22 Recommendations.

.....
CARRIED

- Review and reconsideration of recent NTS 2021/22 motions:

KISHKAN/GUPTA

Motion: That the June 2024 motion be altered to read: That the NTSWG send Table 2 suggested Actions Items to ABCDE and request any questions or concerns be addressed at the TEPWG Table.

.....
CARRIED

KISHKAN BRITTON

Motion: That a recommendation for a Structured Dialogue to take place every 3 years and over a full day be referred to TEPWG for discussion and shared with ABCDE and BCTC for approval.

.....
CARRIED

KISHKAN/GUPTA

Motion: That the BCTC take no further action with respect to the motion passed at the June 2024 meeting that reads "That a letter to the ABCDE be drafted for the TEPWG for review and vetting. The letter will include all action items that are related to TEPs but are outside of the BCTC purview."

.....
CARRIED

4. PROFESSIONAL AND CERTIFICATION STANDARDS STEERING COMMITTEE (PCSSC)

Jim Iker and Vandy Britton provided an overview of the Committee's work since the October 2024 meeting.

- **Committee Report Out — Updates and Recommendations**

- Certification Standards Review
 - Recent updates to the Certification Standards posted online in January 2025.
 - Two half-day consultation sessions on Academic Preparation Requirements (S.51-68) with BC TEPs and BCTC Education Partners organized and led by PCSSC.
 - Proposed revised requirements for the Academic Preparation sections.
 - Proposed consultation with FNEC on the First Nations Language Teacher Certificate Requirements (S.4 and S.11-14).

BIR/BALSEVICH

Motion: That BCTC approve two half-day virtual workshops on the Academic Preparation section of the Certification Standards on the following dates:

- Monday, February 24, 2025 (1:00 pm – 4:00 pm)
- Monday, March 10, 2025 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

..... CARRIED

BIR/BERTING

Motion: That BCTC approve PCSSC engagement of FNEC for co-development on the *First Nations Language Teacher Certificate* sections of the Certification Standards. The proposed timeline to begin this work would be after March Break 2025.

..... CARRIED

BRITTON/NEER

Motion: To move into private at 11:46 am

..... CARRIED

GUPTA

Motion: To move out of private at 12:06 pm

..... CARRIED

5. DIALOGUE WITH THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR TEACHER REGULATION

The Chair welcomed, Donnaree Nygard, the Acting Commissioner for Teacher Regulation, who joined the meeting in person to provide an update from her office. The Acting Commissioner and the BCTC reviewed the statistical data related to the complaints, reports and discipline outcomes, and discussed the following:

- Processing and prioritization of cases by Commissioner's office
- Complaints in relation to Professional Standard 9
- Cases related to classroom management
- School district reporting patterns and consistency of reporting

The BCTC thanked the Acting Commissioner for attending and engaging in dialogue.

6. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

HOLMES/CORNTHWAITE

Motion: That the minutes from February 7, 2025, be adopted.

..... CARRIED


7. ADJOURNMENT

BRITTON/GUPTA

Motion: That the meeting of February 7, 2025, be adjourned.

..... CARRIED

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 2:16 PM



Jim Iker, Chair



Shawn McMullin, Director of Professional Excellence



Kimberley Dionne, Recording Secretary