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# MINUTES OF THE BC TEACHERS' COUNCIL



May 27 to May 29, 2025

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*Last Revised: June 5, 2025*

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**MAY 27, 2025**

**ATTENDANCE**

**BCTC:** Adrienne Demers (Zoom), Jatinder Bir, Lisa Kishkan, Jelana Bighorn, Carol Arnold, Gunita Gupta, Danielle Neer, Michelle LaBounty, Vandy Britton, Mary Mollineaux, Lesya Balsevich, Bob Holmes, Jo Cornthwaite, Doug Sheppard, Anne Tenning, Teri Mooring, Amanda Nichol, Sarvi Brent

**Outgoing BCTC Members:** Terence Berting, Jim Iker

**Guests:** Andrew Crawford Director of Certification, TRB

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

<b>Public:</b>	Daniel Shiu	BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)
	Frank Dunham	Former Professional Excellence Unit staff member
	Deneka Michaud	BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)
	Christine Stewart	BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)

BCTC member, Jo Cornthwaite, stepped in for Acting Chair, Adrienne Demers who was attending by Zoom. Jo called the meeting to order at 9:12 am.

**1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

• **Land Acknowledgement**

Jo Cornthwaite 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 National Indigenous History Month (June)**

June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, an opportunity to learn about the unique cultures, traditions and experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

• **Observance of Pride Month (June)**

June is also Pride Month. Across the globe, various events are held during this special month as a way of recognizing the importance and influence 2SLGBTQIA+ people have had around the world.

• **Approval of Agenda**

**LABOUNTY/BALSEVICH**

Motion: That the agenda for May 27, 2025, be approved.

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CARRIED

- **Welcome and Introductions**

The Acting Chair welcomed all attendees and acknowledged outgoing, newly appointed, and re-appointed BCTC members.

Outgoing: Jim Iker (BCTF) and Terry Berting (BCCPAC).

Newly appointed: Teri Mooring (BCTF) and Amanda Nichol (BCCPAC).

Re-appointed: Anne Tenning (FNESC).

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## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

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

No comments were made.

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## **3. ELECTION OF BCTC CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

- **Administered by the Minister's Appointee on the BCTC**

The Acting Chair informed the BCTC that the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair for the year 2025-2026 must take place as per meeting rules. The election was facilitated by Sarvi Brent, the Minister's Appointee (non-voting member) on the BCTC, following the procedures established by the BCTC.

- Gunita Gupta was elected as the Chair.
  - Michelle LaBounty was elected as Vice-Chair.
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## **4. BUSINESS AND REPORTING OUT**

- **Correspondence**

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

- **Chair's Report**

- **BCTC Annual Report 2024/2025**

The Chair informed members that the BCTC and TRB staff are working on the 2024/2025 annual report that will be released before the end of 2025. The report will highlight the work of the BCTC between May 2024 and April 2025.

- **Meeting Dates – Fall 2025 and Winter 2026**

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

- Fall 2025: October 7-9, 2025
- Winter 2026: February 4-6, 2026

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

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

The Chair informed members that the BCTC needs to set out the BCTC goals for the council year 2025/26, in accordance with the new BCTC Workplan. This will be developed on Day 3 of the meeting. A brief overview of last year's Workplan was provided:

<b>BCTC 2024-2025 goals:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Goal 1:</b> To communicate and promote the <i>Professional Standards for BC Educators</i> .	Ongoing
<b>Goal 2:</b> To communicate and amplify Standard 9 and all it encompasses, including: decolonization, Reconciliation, anti-oppression and anti-racism education.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 3:</b> To continue the review and revisions of the Certification Standards.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 4:</b> To engage BC TEPs and education partners on recommendations and action items stemming from the 2021/22 New Teacher Survey.	Amended
<b>Goal 5:</b> 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 programing, blended learning and removing barriers to accessibility, including financial ones.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 6:</b> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the TRC Calls to Action, DRIPA and Distinctions Based Approach,</li> <li>• decolonization, Reconciliation, anti-oppression, and anti-racism,</li> <li>• inclusion.</li> </ul>	Amended Ongoing

**KISHKAN/BRITTON**

Motion: That the agenda be amended to move the New Teacher Survey Working Group Report Out to Day 1.

..... CARRIED

**5. EXTERNAL PARTNERS REPORT OUT**

• **ABCDE Teacher Education Roundtable 2025**

- Roundtable took place May 1-2, 2025, at UFV's new campus in Mission. Gunita Gupta and Jo Cornthwaite attended on behalf of BCTC. Jo Cornthwaite provided BCTC with an overview of the Roundtable.
- The theme of the roundtable was Human Flourishing. Collaborative breakout sessions were held. The ABCDE Education Advocate of the Year Award was presented to Dr. Vandy Britton.

• **K-12 Workforce Work Groups**

- Teachers Mentorship Working Group
  - Michelle LaBounty provided an update. UBC will lead this project focused on

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recruitment and retention. Potentially, UBC will second 3 educators (Indigenous educators, general educators and Francophone educators). May have four online, asynchronous modules. Hoping to have infrastructure in place by summer with planning/recruitment in place by the fall. A steering committee will establish criteria. Hope to have the Pilot ready in 2027.

- Data Working Group
  - Gunita Gupta informed BCTC that this group will meet on the morning of June 3. An update will be provided at the next BCTC meeting.
- Communication Working Group
  - Jatinder Bir provided an update on the last two meetings. In the spring of 2025, a communications campaign was launched highlighting the K-12 Workforce Plan and promoting K-12 career opportunities through a K-12 workforce website, videos and print materials.

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**6. NEW TEACHER SURVEY WORKING GROUP (NTSWG)**

Terry Berting provided an overview of the group's work since the February 2025 meeting.

- **Report Out – Updates and Recommendations**
  - NTS 2021/22 Recommendations and Action items
    - Overview of work completed regarding the NTS recommendations and action items.
    - BCTC/TEP action Items of regulatory nature were shared with BC TEPs.

**KISHKAN/HOLMES**

Motion: That the New Teacher Survey Working Group be placed in abeyance until BCTC approves initiation of the next of the New Teacher Survey.

CARRIED

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**7. REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**HOLMES/NEER**

Motion: That the minutes from May 27, 2025, be adopted.

CARRIED

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**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**BALSEVICH/CORNTHWAITE**

Motion: That the meeting of May 27, 2025, be adjourned.

CARRIED

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**COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 12:30 PM**

**MAY 28, 2025**

**ATTENDANCE**

**BCTC:** Jatinder Bir, Lisa Kishkan, Jelana Bighorn, Carol Arnold, Gunita Gupta, Danielle Neer, Michelle LaBounty, Vandy Britton, Mary Mollineaux, Lesya Balsevich, Bob Holmes, Jo Cornthwaite, Doug Sheppard, Anne Tenning, Teri Mooring, Amanda Nichol, Sarvi Brent

**Regrets:** Adrienne Demers

**Outgoing BCTC Members:** Terence Berting, Jim Iker

**Guests:** Honourable Lisa Beare Minister of Education and Child Care (ECC)  
Kerry Robertson University of Victoria (UVic)

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

**Public:** Daniel Shiu BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)  
John Yamamoto University of British Columbia (UBC)  
Elsa Plican BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)  
Tricia Stobbe Christian Educators of British Columbia (CEBC)  
Jackie Buitelaar Trinity Western University (TWU)

The Chair, Gunita Gupta, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

• **Land Acknowledgement**

The Vice-Chair, Michelle LaBounty, 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.

• **Approval of Agenda**

**TENNING/BRITTON**

Motion: That the agenda for May 28, 2025, be approved.

..... 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. TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP (TEPWG)**

Jim Iker and ABCDE representative, Vandy Britton, provided an overview of the TEPWG work since the February 2025 BCTC meeting. The following was discussed:

- ABCDE Roundtable 2025
- TEPAR Framework Process C – Structured Dialogue Revisions:
  - Extend to one full day every 3 years, instead of one half-day every 2 years.
  - Change “Agenda” to “Program Overview” and request a “Shape of the Day”.
  - Some minor internal timeline changes.
  - Align the revised language in the Cyclical Review Implementation Framework section.

**BRITTON/KISHKAN**

Motion: That BCTC refer to staff these Process C – Ongoing Structured Dialogue revisions to finalize and post publicly on the BCTC webpage.

CARRIED

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- Certification Standards Review pertaining to Academic Preparation requirements.
  - New Teacher Survey Action Items.
  - TEPAR Framework Process E – Exceptional Concerns Protocol possible revisions.
  - BCTF correspondence to ABCDE (March 7, 2025).
  - TEPAS s.4.5(e) – *“is free from any apparent conflict of interest”*. This item will be tabled for further review by TEPARC in the near future.

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**4. STRUCTURED DIALOGUE – UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA (UVIC)**

Gunita Gupta and Mary Mollineaux delivered a report on the Structured Dialogue conducted at UVic Victoria campus on February 25, 2025.

The Chair welcomed UVic representative, Kerry Robertson, Manager of Teacher Education, to comment and respond to questions.

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**5. PROFESSIONAL AND CERTIFICATION STANDARDS STEERING COMMITTEE (PCSSC)**

Michelle LaBounty, Vandy Britton and Anne Tenning provided an overview of the Committee’s work since the February 2025 BCTC meeting.

- **Committee Report Out – Updates and Recommendations**
  - Certification Standards Review
    - Academic Preparation (S.51-68) – Options for Requirements.

Report Out and discussion to resume on Day 3.

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**6. UPDATES AND DIALOGUE WITH HONOURABLE LISA BEARE, THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**

- The Minister expressed appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Jim Iker, and congratulated the newly elected Chair, Gunita Gupta, and Vice-Chair, Michelle LaBounty. She additionally acknowledged continuing members for their efforts.
- The Minister reiterated commitment to TRC Calls to Action, supporting rural and remote communities, supporting K-12 students with literacy and numeracy, and certifying new and experienced domestic and international teachers.
- The Minister acknowledged the important work in BCTC's mandate.
- The Minister will follow up with a formal letter to outline requests and provide further details. She would like to see this work prioritized with a report to her by end-of-year (December 2025).
- The Minister is looking forward to future opportunities to meet with BCTC.

The Council thanked the Minister for fielding questions and engaging in dialogue.

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**7. BCTC IN-PRIVATE**

**BIR/BALSEVICH**

Motion: That the BCTC move into private at 1:30 pm.

CARRIED

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**HOLMES**

Motion: That the BCTC move out of private at 3:30 pm.

CARRIED

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**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**CORNTHWAITE/BALSEVICH**

Motion: That the meeting of May 28, 2025, be adjourned.

CARRIED

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*COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 3:30 PM*

**MAY 29, 2025**

**ATTENDANCE**

**BCTC:** Adrienne Demers (Zoom), Jatinder Bir, Lisa Kishkan, Jelana Bighorn, Carol Arnold, Gunita Gupta, Danielle Neer, Michelle LaBounty, Vandy Britton, Mary Mollineaux, Lesya Balsevich, Bob Holmes, Jo Cornthwaite, Doug Sheppard, Anne Tenning, Teri Mooring, Amanda Nichol, Sarvi Brent

**Outgoing BCTC Members:** Terence Berting, Jim Iker

<b>Guests:</b>	Linda Beddouche	Workforce Development (ECC)
	Mimi Lin	Workforce Development (ECC)
	Kerry Robertson	University of Victoria (UVic)
	Rachel Moll	Vancouver Island University (VIU)

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

<b>Public:</b>	Daniel Shiu	BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)
	Shannon Behan	Principal and Vice-Principal Association (BCPVPA)
	Andrew Jang	Make a Future – Careers in BC Education
	Christine Stewart	BC Teachers' Federation

The Chair, Gunita Gupta, called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

**1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

• **Land Acknowledgement**

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.

• **Approval of Agenda**

**BRITTON/CORNTHWAITE**

Motion: That the agenda for May 29, 2025, be approved.

..... CARRIED

• **Spring 2026 Meeting Dates – Decision**

BCTC members voted on their preferred dates for the spring 2026 meeting.

The spring meeting of the BCTC will be held on June 2-4, 2026.

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**2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

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

Public members introduced themselves.

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**3. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP ELECTIONS**

Council discussed an amendment to the BCTC meeting rules that would allow the Vice Chair to be an ex officio member of any committee/working group.

**HOLMES/NEER**

Motion: That the BCTC amend their Meeting Rules to allow the Chair or the Vice-Chair to be included as an ex-officio member of any committee and/or working group, with the right to vote, under section *Committees*, item 3, and section *Working Groups*, item 2.

CARRIED

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This proposed revision will be submitted to the Minister of Education and Child Care for review as per the Teachers Act s. 14(1)(a).

Council discussed the creation of a new committee to address the Minister's request of May 28, 2025.

**CORNTHWAITE/HOLMES**

Motion: That the BCTC strike a new committee of the whole to address the business of the Minister's request of May 28, 2025.

CARRIED

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**4. K-12 WORKFORCE UPDATE: PRESENTATION BY LINDA BEDDOUCHE, DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, ECC**

The Chair welcomed Linda Beddouche, Director of Workforce Development, to provide an update on the BC K-12 Workforce Plan regarding:

- Recruitment and retention strategies to increase the number of Indigenous educators.
- Flexible teacher education pathways to BC teacher certification
- Supporting internationally educated teacher applicants with certification (<https://internationalteachers.makeafuture.ca>)
- Rural & Remote bursaries and data collection
- Workforce Plan Communications and the K-12 Educator vignette video campaign ([www.gov.bc.ca/k12workforce](http://www.gov.bc.ca/k12workforce))

The Council thanked Linda for the update and for engaging Council members in dialogue.

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**5. TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM APPROVAL AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (TEPARC)**

Lisa Kishkan and Danielle Neer provided an overview of the committee's work since the February 2025 meeting.

**Committee Report Out and Recommendations**

- Structured Dialogues (Process C)
  - Doug Sheppard and Michelle LaBounty attended a Structured Dialogue at Trinity Western University on May 7, 2025. Their report will be presented at the Fall 2025 BCTC meeting.
  - Jelana Bighorn and Bob Holmes attended a Structured Dialogue at the University of British Columbia Okanagan on May 13, 2025. Their report will be presented at the Fall 2025 BCTC meeting.
- Maintenance Reviews (Process D)
  - A Thompson Rivers University (TRU) Maintenance Review was completed on November 19-21, 2024. The PAT Report was presented on February 6, 2025, where the BCTC confirmed that the TEP at TRU conditionally meets the TEP Approval Standards. The BCTC established Conditions and Timelines which were shared with TRU on May 13, 2025.
  - A Maintenance Review has been scheduled to occur at the University of Northern British Columbia on November 4-6, 2025. TEPARC will select Program Assessment Team members at an upcoming TEPARC meeting.
- Changes to Existing Programs (Process B)
  - UFV Hybrid delivery (all three semesters) (received January 23, 2025)
  - UVic EDCI 336 Technology and Innovation in Education online delivery (received Mar 22, 2025)
    - Kerry Robertson from UVic was invited to comment and respond to questions.
  - UBC NITEP Rotating Field Centers (received May 5, 2025)
  - VIU Dispersed Elementary 5-year B.Ed. Cohort (received April 8, 2025)
    - Rachel Moll from VIU was in attendance to comment and respond to questions.
- Exceptional Concerns Protocol (Process E)
  - The Process E Review Committee (Jim Iker, Vandy Britton, Jo Cornthwaite, Anne Tenning) completed their review on April 22, 2025. TEPARC completed a Findings Report for the BCTC to review in private.

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**NEER/BRITTON**

Motion: That the Development of BCTC Workplan 2025-2026 be deferred to the BCTC half-day meeting in June.

CARRIED

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**6. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP ELECTIONS**

The Chair informed Council that BCTC committee and working group elections must take place as per the BCTC meeting rules and terms of reference for each committee. Ministry staff facilitated and oversaw the election process.

- **PCSSC – 2 members**

This committee has two vacant seats left by Vandy Britton and Michelle LaBounty.

Vandy Britton and Danielle Neer were elected.

Current members: Jatinder Bir, Jelana Bighorn, Anne Tenning, Vandy Britton, and Danielle Neer (Chair may attend as ex officio).

- **TEPARC – 3 members and affirmation of ABCDE representative position**

This committee has three vacant seats left by Lisa Kishkan, Danielle Neer, and Jim Iker.

Vandy Britton was reappointed to the standing ABCDE representative position.

Lisa Kishkan, Teri Mooring, Doug Sheppard were elected.

Current members: Jo Cornthwaite, Vandy Britton, Lisa Kishkan, Teri Mooring, and Doug Sheppard (Chair may attend as ex officio).

- **TEPWG**

As per the TEPWG Terms of Reference, this committee includes 2 BCTC members (Chair and Vice-Chair) and 2 representatives from the ABCDE. BCTC representatives will be Gunita Gupta and Michelle LaBounty (or designates as required).

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**7. BCTC IN PRIVATE**

**NEER/HOLMES**

Motion: to move into private at 1:05 pm.

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CARRIED

**KISHKAN**

Motion: to move out of private at 1:30 pm.

.....  
CARRIED

**8. PROFESSIONAL AND CERTIFICATION STANDARDS STEERING COMMITTEE (PCSSC) – CONT'D**

Michelle LaBounty and Vandy Britton continued to provide an overview of the Committee's work since the February 2025 BCTC meeting.

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

- Certification Standards Review

- Academic Preparation (S.51-68) – Options for Requirements.

**BIR/CORNTHWAITE**

Motion: That the BCTC approve in principle Option 1 for Academic Preparation and request the committee to work with BCTC External Legal Counsel to draft revisions to these sections of the Certification Standards.

The following members asked that their negative vote be recorded:

Jelana Bighorn, Jo Cornthwaite, Adrienne Demers, Michelle LaBounty, Mary Mollineaux, Vandy Britton, and Danielle Neer.

..... CARRIED

- Professional Preparation (S.76-88) – Additional Considerations.

**BRITTON/HOLMES**

Motion: That BCTC approve PCSSC to explore options for revisions to S.82-83 to reduce barriers for applicants who may have a short summative practicum but subsequent successful K-12 teaching experience.

..... CARRIED

**BIR/KISHKAN**

Motion: That BCTC approve PCSSC to engage the ABCDE on the possibility of developing an additional Familiarization course(s) that would meet the intended Canadian content requirements under S.85 for all applicants, specifically IETs.

..... CARRIED

- First Nations Language Teacher Certificate (S.4 and S.11-14) – Consultation and Co-Development.

**BIR/HOLMES**

Motion: That BCTC approve the establishment of a formal working groups with FNEC and the Ministry to review and consider the best way forward with the First Nations Language Teacher Certificate sections of the Certification Standards and better support pathways to certification for First Nations language teachers.

..... CARRIED

**9. MOTIONS COMING OUT OF PRIVATE**

**NEER**

Motion: That the UFV Hybrid delivery (all 3 semesters) be approved as a minor program change.

..... CARRIED

**MOORING**

Motion: That UVic EDCI 336 online course be approved as a minor program change.

..... CARRIED

**NEER**

Motion: That the BCTC agree to a Standing Approval for the UBC NITEP Field Centers (in various locations as designated by UBC) until 2032, or until a new Director is appointed for UBC NITEP.

..... CARRIED

**NEER**

Motion: That the BCTC sign a longer-term MOU with UBC NITEP related to TEPAS 4.5 (e) "... free from any apparent conflict of interest ..." until 2032, or until a new Director is appointed for UBC NITEP.

..... CARRIED

**BIGHORN**

Motion: That the BCTC agree that TEPARC should establish an annual meeting with the UBC NITEP Director to provide an update on all Field Center operations and how the practicum placements continue to be managed.

..... CARRIED

**ARNOLD**

Motion: That the VIU Dispersed Elementary B.Ed. cohort be approved as a minor program change.

..... CARRIED

**KISHKAN**

Motion: That the VIU Rural and Remote Cohort continues to meet the TEP Approval Standards and retains program approval status.

..... CARRIED

**10. JUNE 2025 AD-HOC MEETING**

BCTC members determined to meet for a half-day in June 2025 to discuss the Minister's May 28, 2025, request and the incoming follow-up letter, including implications on BCTC's Workplan.

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**11. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES**

**HOLMES/MOORING**

Motion: That the minutes from May 28, 2025, be adopted.

..... CARRIED

**NEER/KISHKAN**

Motion: That the minutes from May 29, 2025, be adopted.

..... CARRIED

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**ARNOLD/MOORING**

Motion: That the meeting of May 29, 2025, be adjourned.

..... CARRIED

**COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 3:13 PM**



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Gunita Gupta, Chair



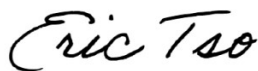
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Shawn McMullin, Director of Professional Excellence



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Vicki Wayne, Recording Secretary, May 27 & 28, 2025



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Eric Tso, Recording Secretary, May 29, 2025