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# MINUTES OF THE BC TEACHERS' COUNCIL



June 2 to June 4, 2026

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**JUNE 2, 2026**

**ATTENDANCE**

**BCTC:** Gunita Gupta, Michelle LaBounty, Jatinder Bir, Lisa Kishkan, Jelana Bighorn, Carol Arnold, Danielle Neer, Vandy Britton, Mary Mollineaux, Bob Holmes, Doug Sheppard, Amanda Nichol, Teri Mooring, Clayton Grice (virtual), Elizabeth Bennett, Reid Clark, Janet Dhanani, Sarvi Brent

**Outgoing**

**Members:** Adrienne Demers

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

**Guests:** None

**Public:** Heather Kelley BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)  
Chris Beneteau BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)

The Chair, Gunita Gupta, called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

**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 National Indigenous History Month**

The Chair acknowledged that June is National Indigenous History Month which serves as an opportunity to honor the unique cultures, traditions and experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

• **Observance of Pride Month**

The Chair acknowledged that June is also Pride Month. Across the globe, various marches will be held to celebrate the contributions and importance of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

• **Observance of World Environment Day**

The Chair acknowledged that the United Nations has designated June 5<sup>th</sup> as World Environment Day to encourage climate action, awareness, and environmental protection.

- **Approval of Agenda**

**SHEPPARD/NEER**

Motion: That the agenda for June 2, 2026, be approved.

..... CARRIED

- **Welcome and Farewell to BCTC Members**

The Chair welcomed the following appointed and reappointed BCTC members (with terms expiring on April 23, 2029):

<b>Elizabeth Bennett</b> – Appointed, nominated by BCTF
<b>Reid Clark</b> – Appointed, nominated by BCTF
<b>Janet Dhanani</b> – Appointed, nominated by FISA BC
<b>Bob Holmes</b> – Reappointed, nominated by BCSTA
<b>Mary Mollineaux</b> – Reappointed, nominated by FNEA

BCTC members Reid Clark, Janet Dhanani and Bob Holmes were appointed to the Disciplinary and Professional Conduct Board.

The Chair thanked former BCTC members Adrienne Demers, Jo Cornthwaite and Lesya Balsevich for their contributions to the work of Council.

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**2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

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

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

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

The Chair informed the BCTC that the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair must take place in accordance with the *BC Teachers' Council Approved Meeting Rules*. The election was facilitated by Sarvi Brent, the Minister's Appointee (non-voting member) on the BCTC.

**Chair:** Gunita Gupta and Jelana Bighorn were nominated for the position of Chair and accepted the nominations.

Gunita Gupta was elected as Chair.

**Vice-Chair:** Jelana Bighorn, Danielle Neer and Michelle LaBounty were nominated for the position of Vice-Chair. Jelana Bighorn and Danielle Neer accepted the nominations. Michelle LaBounty declined the nomination.

Danielle Neer was elected as Vice-Chair.

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**4. BUSINESS AND REPORTING OUT**

• **Correspondence**

The BCTC reviewed correspondence received since their February 2026 meeting. Correspondence will be discussed under specific agenda items throughout the June 2026 meeting.

• **Chair's Report**

○ **BCTC Special Report Submission – February 2026**

The Chair reminded Council members that the BCTC Teachers Act Section 17 Special Report was submitted to the Minister on February 26, 2026, and publicly released on the BCTC website on April 13, 2026.

○ **BCTC Annual Report 2025/2026**

TRB staff are currently working on the 2025/2026 annual report which will be released before the end of 2026. The report will highlight the work of Council from May 2025 to April 2026.

○ **BCTC Meeting Dates – Fall 2026 and Winter 2027**

The BCTC will hold meetings on the following dates:

- Fall 2026: October 6-8, 2026
- Winter 2027: February 9-11, 2027
- Spring 2027: to be determined

Council members were asked to consider potential dates for:

- A Committee of the Whole meeting (June/July 2026)
- The spring 2027 meeting

Meeting dates will be determined once all Council members have responded to the survey.

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○ **BCTC Workplan 2025/2026 Overview**

The BCTC reviewed the 2025/2026 Workplan that was approved at their June 2025 meeting.

<b>BCTC 2025-2026 goals:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Goal 1:</b> To complete the review and revisions of the Certification Standards.	Ongoing Amended
<b>Goal 2:</b> To continue to collaborate with BC teacher education programs to develop and offer programming that meets the needs of the BC K-12 education system, including blended and community-based TEP cohorts.	Ongoing Amended

<b>Goal 3:</b> To collaborate with FNEESC and the Ministry of Education and Child Care through a formal working group to better support pathways to certification for First Nations language teachers and ongoing discussion on Standard 9.	New
<b>Goal 4:</b> To develop a formal report to Minister Beare's mandate request letter by the required deadline of February 28, 2026.	New

The 2026/2027 Workplan will be developed on Day 3 of this meeting.

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**5. EXTERNAL PARTNERS REPORT OUT**

• **ABCDE Teacher Education Roundtable 2026**

- The Roundtable was hosted by Simon Fraser University at their Burnaby campus on April 30 – May 1, 2026.
- The theme of the roundtable was *Pathways: Exploring the many pathways of education, learning, leadership and professional practice that shape our collective work*. Carol Arnold and Doug Sheppard attended and provided the BCTC with an overview of the event.

• **K-12 Workforce Work Groups**

- Cross-Sector Discussion on Workforce
    - Gunita Gupta attended a partner meeting on May 26, 2026, in Victoria and provided an update.
  - Data Working Group
    - Gunita Gupta shared that this group has not met since the last BCTC meeting but the group intends to meet later this month.
  - Teacher Mentorship Working Group
    - Michelle LaBounty attended a committee meeting on May 19, 2026, and provided BCTC with an overview of their work.
  - Communications Working Group
    - Jatinder Bir informed Council that this group has not met since the last BCTC meeting but the group intends to meet this Wednesday, June 3, 2026.
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**6. DECISION ON MEETING DATES**

The BCTC will hold a Committee of the Whole meeting on July 6, 2026, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

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**Minutes of the BC Teachers' Council**

Held at SFU Harbour Centre

June 2 to June 4, 2026

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**KISHKAN/LABOUNTY**

Motion: That the BCTC move into private at 2:38 pm.

CARRIED

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**BRITTON**

Motion: That the BCTC move out of private at 3:13 pm.

CARRIED

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**7. REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**BIR/BENNETT**

Motion: That the minutes from June 2, 2026, be adopted.

CARRIED

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**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**SHEPPARD/KISHKAN**

Motion: That the meeting of June 2, 2026, be adjourned.

CARRIED

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*COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 3:18 PM*

**JUNE 3, 2026**

**ATTENDANCE**

**BCTC:** Gunita Gupta, Michelle LaBounty, Jatinder Bir, Lisa Kishkan, Jelana Bighorn, Carol Arnold, Danielle Neer, Vandy Britton, Mary Mollineaux, Bob Holmes, Doug Sheppard, Amanda Nichol, Teri Mooring, Clayton Grice (virtual), Elizabeth Bennett, Reid Clark, Sarvi Brent

**Regrets:** Janet Dhanani

**Outgoing**

**Members:** Adrienne Demers, Lesya Balsevich

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

**Guests:**

David Trumpower	University of British Columbia Okanagan
Jennifer Laming	University of British Columbia Okanagan
Jean-Paul Restoule	University of Victoria
Aliki Marinakis	University of Victoria
Mimi Lin	Ministry of Education and Child Care
Andrew Crawford	Director of Certification, Ministry of Education and Child Care

**Public:**

Elsa Plican	BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)
Tricia Warkentin	Christian Educators of British Columbia (CEBC)
John Yamamoto	University of British Columbia (UBC)
Jackie Buitelaar	Trinity Western University (TWU)
Heather Kelley	BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)

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

**1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

• **Land Acknowledgement**

The Vice-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.

• **Approval of Agenda**

**BRITTON/HOLMES**

Motion: That the agenda for June 3, 2026, be approved.

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CARRIED

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

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

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

Gunita Gupta and Vandy Britton provided an overview of the TEPWG discussions since the February 2026 BCTC meeting, including the following:

- Practica policies relating to apparent conflicts of interest (new TEP Approval Standard S.4.6).
  - The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills second call for proposals for community-based First Nations TEPs.
  - Western Washington University TEP (in partnership with Langley SD).
  - ABCDE developing proposed revisions to Process B and E of the TEP Approval and Review Framework for future BCTC consideration.
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**4. MAINTENANCE REVIEW – UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA OKANAGAN (UBCO)**

The Program Assessment Team (PAT) members, Teri Mooring and Lesya Balsevich, provided an overview of the Maintenance Review that occurred at the UBCO campus on March 3-5, 2026. The PAT Chair, Teri Mooring, acknowledged the contributions of external PAT members Kerry Robertson (UVic) and Mary Redfearn (School District 23).

The Chair welcomed comments from UBCO representatives David Trumpower (Associate Professor & Director of Undergraduate Programs) and Jennifer Laminger (Field Experience Coordinator).

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

Lisa Kishkan and Doug Sheppard provided an overview of the Committee's work since the February 2026 meeting.

- Overview of Cyclical Reviews:
  - UBCO Maintenance Review completed (March 3–5, 2026)
  - SFU Structured Dialogue completed (May 12, 2026)
  - UVic Maintenance Review upcoming (November 17-19, 2026)
- Four Process B proposals were reviewed and discussed at the BCTC Committee of the Whole meeting on April 22, 2026:
  - UBC Remote Teacher Education Program (RTEP) approved as a Minor Program Change on April 22, 2026.

- UBC Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NITEP) at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (Partnership with Bonaparte First Nation) approved as a Minor Program Change on April 22, 2026.
- UVic Elementary Post-Degree Professional Program (PDPP) location change to John Horgan Campus (determined by TEPARC to be Internal Program Change).
- UVic addition of a non-credit course (determined by TEPARC to be Internal Program Change).
- TEPARC reviewed two Process B proposals at their April 29, 2026, committee meeting:
  - UVic Indigenous Education – Elementary PDPP location change to WSÁNEĆ College (determined by TEPARC to be Internal Program Change).
  - UVic Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization (BEDILR) – Standing Approval for changes to Locations and Blended Delivery.

**HOLMES/BIR**

Motion: That the BCTC move into private at 10:49 am.

..... CARRIED

**HOLMES**

Motion: That the BCTC move out of private at 12:04 pm.

..... CARRIED

**6. MOTIONS COMING OUT OF PRIVATE**

**MOORING**

Motion: That, upon review of the PAT report for the University of British Columbia Okanagan Maintenance Review (March 3-5, 2026), the BCTC confirms that the Teacher Education Program at UBCO continues to meet the TEP Approval Standards.

..... CARRIED

**KISHKAN**

Motion: That BCTC approve as a Minor Program change, the UVic BEDILR:

1. Standing approval to change BEDILR locations according to where community partners are located, and
2. Standing approval for any BEDILR cohort to deliver up to 65% of professional education coursework online (excluding practicum).

..... CARRIED

**8. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BCTC**

On behalf of the Minister of Education and Child Care, Sarvi Brent presented the BCTC with recommendations following submission of the BCTC Teachers Act Section 17 Special Report:

- Section 51 to 69 – Remove differentiated evaluations for elementary and secondary streams
  - Section 80 to 83 – More flexibility on short practicums/practicum supervision
  - Section 85 and 87 – Simplify teacher education program evaluations while maintaining BC/Canadian context requirements
- 

**BIR/BRITTON**

Motion: That the BCTC move into private at 2:23 pm.

CARRIED

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**LABOUNTY**

Motion: That the BCTC move out of private at 3:02 pm.

CARRIED

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**9. MOTION COMING OUT OF PRIVATE**

**MOORING**

That TEPARC discuss recommendations contained within PAT reports with respect to their implementation.

CARRIED

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**10. REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**KISHKAN/ARNOLD**

Motion: That the minutes from June 3, 2026, be adopted.

CARRIED

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**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**CLARK/BENNETT**

Motion: That the meeting of June 3, 2026, be adjourned.

CARRIED

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*COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 3:06 PM*

**JUNE 4, 2026**

**ATTENDANCE**

**BCTC:** Gunita Gupta, Jatinder Bir, Lisa Kishkan, Jelana Bighorn, Carol Arnold, Danielle Neer, Vandy Britton, Mary Mollineaux, Bob Holmes, Doug Sheppard, Amanda Nichol, Teri Mooring, Clayton Grice (virtual), Elizabeth Bennett, Reid Clark, Janet Dhanani, Sarvi Brent

**Regrets:** Michelle LaBounty

**Outgoing**

**Members:** Adrienne Demers

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

**Guests:** Andrew Crawford      Director of Certification, Ministry of Education and Child Care

**Public:** Andrew Jang                      BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)  
Heather Kelley                      BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)  
Christine Stewart                    BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01 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.

• **Approval of Agenda**

**BRITTON/BIR**

Motion: That the agenda for June 4, 2026, be approved.

..... CARRIED

• **Future Meeting Dates - Decision**

The spring meeting of the BCTC will be held on June 8-10, 2027.

**SHEPPARD/HOLMES**

Motion: That BCTC write a letter to the Minister and Deputy Minister requesting all staff and directors' in-person attendance at regularly scheduled BCTC meetings, and copy all BCTC partner groups.

..... CARRIED

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

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

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**3. DEVELOPMENT OF BCTC WORKPLAN 2026-2027**

The BCTC reflected on their 2025-2026 goals and set goals for 2026-2027.

<b>BCTC 2026-2027 goals:</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Goal 1:</b> To complete the review and revisions of the Certification Standards.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 2:</b> To continue to collaborate with BC teacher education programs to develop and offer programming that meets the needs of the BC K-12 education system, including blended and community-based TEP cohorts.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 3:</b> To collaborate with FNEC and the Ministry of Education and Child Care through a formal working group to better support pathways to certification for First Nations language teachers and ongoing discussion on Standard 9.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 4:</b> To begin a review of the Professional Standards for BC Educators.	New
<b>Goal 5:</b> To begin work on an Early Career Teachers Survey.	New

**BIR/BENNETT**

Motion: That the BCTC approve the BCTC Workplan 2026/27.

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CARRIED

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

Danielle Neer provided an overview of the Committee's work since the February 2026 BCTC meeting.

- Two motions were passed at the BCTC Committee of the Whole meeting April 22, 2026:

**GRICE/NEER**

Motion: That BCTC approve the proposed administrative amendment to S.14 of the First Nations Language Teacher Certificate section of the Certification Standards

CARRIED ON APRIL 22, 2026

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**GRICE/BRITTON**

Motion: That BCTC approve the proposed administrative amendments to English and French Language Proficiency sections – S.44(e) and S.48(e).

..... CARRIED ON APRIL 22, 2026

- Committee recommendations on remaining sections of the Certification Standards:

**NEER/KISHKAN**

Motion: That BCTC approve *in principle* the removal of S.47 within the Certification Standards.

..... CARRIED

**NEER/BRITTON**

Motion: That BCTC approve *in principle* the proposed changes to S.71 (specifically the stem and language within (b) and (d), as well as the removal of S.72 within the Certification Standards.

..... CARRIED

**NEER/BRITTON**

Motion: That BCTC approve *in principle* the proposed changes to remove S.92 from the Certification Standards and amend S.93 to remove the experiential requirement and simply state there is a five-year window for the Reinstatement process from the date of administrative cancellation of certificate.

**BIR/BIGHORN**

Motion to refer: That the BCTC refer Re-evaluation and Reinstatement S.92-93 back to PCSSC for further review and consideration.

..... CARRIED

**BRITON/HOLMES**

Motion: That BCTC refer Acceptable Practicum S.80 and Familiarization S.90-91 back to PCSSC for further review and consideration.

..... CARRIED

- BCTC will meet with their legal counsel in August/September 2026 to review the Realigned Certification Standards.
- 

**5. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP ELECTIONS**

The Chair informed Council that the 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**

Current members: Vandy Britton, Danielle Neer, Clayton Grice

- Jelana Bighorn and Jatinder Bir's committee terms expired resulting in two vacant seats.
- Michelle LaBounty and Jelana Bighorn were elected.

- **TEPARC: 1 member + 1 standing ABCDE seat**

Current members: Lisa Kishkan, Teri Mooring, Doug Sheppard

- Jo Cornthwaite's committee term expired resulting in one vacant seat.
- Elizabeth Bennett was acclaimed. Vandy Britton was reaffirmed to the standing ABCDE seat.

- **TEPWG: Chair and Vice-Chair**

- Gunita Gupta (Chair) and Danielle Neer (Vice-Chair) were affirmed.

- **Early Career Teachers Survey Working Group (ECTSWG)**

**BIGHORN/NICHOL**

Motion: That the membership of the Early Career Teachers Survey Working Group be comprised of four elected BCTC members and Chair/Vice-Chair as ex-officio.

..... CARRIED

- Elizabeth Bennett, Lisa Kishkan, Michelle LaBounty, and Reid Clark were elected.

- **Teacher Mentorship Working Group: 1 member**

- Carol Arnold was elected.

- **Data Working Group: 1 member**

- Gunita Gupta was elected.

- **Communication Working Group: 1 member**

- Janet Dhanani was elected.
- 

**6. DEVELOPMENT OF BCTC WORKPLAN STRATEGIES 2026-2027**

Council reviewed and amended their workplan strategies document in accordance with the BCTC Workplan 2026/2027.

**BIR/CLARK**

Motion: That the BCTC approve the BCTC Workplan Strategies 2026/27.

..... CARRIED

**Minutes of the BC Teachers' Council**

Held at SFU Harbour Centre

June 2 to June 4, 2026

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**7. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES**

**BRITTON/HOLMES**

Motion: That the minutes from June 4, 2026, be adopted.

..... CARRIED

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**BIGHORN/BENNETT**

Motion: That the meeting of June 4, 2026, be adjourned.

..... CARRIED

*COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 3:03 PM*

**Minutes of the BC Teachers' Council**

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Gunita Gupta, Chair



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Shawn McMullin, Director of Professional Excellence



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Eric Tso, Recording Secretary