

## **Certification Standards**

### **November 2019**

#### **Preamble**

The Certification Standards set out the training, education and qualifications an applicant must have to be eligible for a BC teaching certificate of qualification. They are used by the Director of Certification to evaluate applications for certificates of qualification.

#### **Mandate of the British Columbia Teachers' Council**

The *Teachers Act* establishes the British Columbia Teachers' Council (BCTC) and provides the mandate for the Council to establish standards in the public interest for individuals being issued certificates of qualification by the Ministry of Education. Section 10 (1) and (2) and section 13 to (e) of the Act set out the objectives of the BCTC:

- establish standards for the conduct and competence of applicants for certificates of qualification and for certificate holders (Professional Standards);
- establish standards for the education of applicants for certificates of qualification (Certification Standards); and,
- establish teacher education program approval standards and determine if teacher education programs meet these standards (Teacher Education Program Approval Standards).

## **Certification Standards**

These standards are made under sections 13(d) and (e) of the *Teachers Act*, S.B.C. 2011. If there is any discrepancy between these standards and the *Teachers Act*, the *Teachers Act* governs.

## **DEFINITIONS**

In these standards:

“Act” means the *Teachers Act*;

“BC” means British Columbia;

“CAAT” means a College of Applied Arts and Technology in Ontario;

“certificate holder” means a person who holds a certificate of qualification;

“certificate of qualification” means a certificate of qualification issued by the director under the Act;

“certification standards” means the certification standards set by the council under section 13(d)(i) of the Act;

“council” means the British Columbia Teachers’ Council established under section 9 of the Act;

“director” means the director of certification appointed under section 6 of the Act;

“letter of permission” means a letter of permission issued by the director under the Act;

“ministry” means the Ministry of Education.

## **CATEGORIES OF CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION**

1. The director may issue the following categories of certificate:
  - (a) a Professional Certificate;
  - (b) a Conditional Certificate;
  - (c) a First Nations Language Teacher Certificate;
  - (d) a Developmental Standard Term Certificate;
  - (e) a Trades Certificate.

### **Professional Certificate**

2. Effective April 1, 2008, a Professional Certificate shall require completion of a minimum four-year program and not less than 120 credit/semester hours, or equivalent, of post-secondary school professional and academic or specialist studies beyond BC grade 12, or equivalent including an acceptable teacher education program and appropriate degree or degrees or equivalent, as defined in standards 52-75, and 77-88.

### **Conditional Certificate**

3. A Conditional Certificate shall require completion of a minimum four-year program of not less than 120 credit/semester hours, or equivalent, of post-secondary school professional and academic or specialist studies beyond BC grade 12, or equivalent, including an acceptable teacher education program. A Conditional Certificate may be granted where not all requirements for a Professional Certificate have been met, as outlined in standards 52-75 and 77-88.

### **First Nations Language Teacher Certificate**

4. A First Nations Language Teacher Certificate
  - (a) shall require the applicant to be a proficient speaker of a First Nations language; and
  - (b) may be issued to individuals who have been recommended by the appropriate First Nations Language authority.

### **Developmental Standard Term Certificate**

5. A Developmental Standard Term Certificate is a term certificate of qualification which shall require completion of academic and teacher education approved by the council, and one of the following:
  - (a) an interprovincial trades qualification program recognized by the director;
  - (b) a First Nations program of studies recognized by the director; or
  - (c) other qualifications approved by the council.

### **Trades Certificate**

6. A Trades Certificate shall require completion of the following professional, specialist and academic preparation beyond BC grade 12:
  - (a) Red Seal or BC Industry Trade Authority (ITA) certificate of qualification in a trades subject area offered within BC's K-12 system, as defined in standard 7;
  - (b) A minimum five years of journeyperson work and/or teaching experience in the trade area as defined in standard 8;
  - (c) an acceptable teacher education program as defined in standards 77-88; and
  - (d) 6 credits of English or French literature and composition as defined in standard 54.
7. For the purposes of standard 6, an applicant must have a Red Seal or ITA certificate of qualification that has a minimum of three levels as outlined by the ITA.
8. For the purposes of standard 6, the journeyperson work or teaching experience must be in the recognized trade area and be accumulated within the last ten years.
9. Any inter-provincial trades qualification program "Red Seal" or equivalent that relates to the BC curriculum outcomes will meet the requirement in standard 5.

### **RESTRICTION OF CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION**

10. A certificate of qualification may be restricted to the following specific teaching areas:
  - (a) a First Nations Language Teacher Certificate;
  - (b) a Developmental Standard Term Certificate; and
  - (c) a Trades Certificate.

### **First Nations Language Teacher Certificate**

11. A First Nations Language Teacher Certificate is a restricted certificate of qualification restricted for a specific First Nations language.
12. A Tribal Council or other body acceptable to the council may recommend to the council the First Nations Language authority for its language and culture.
13. The First Nations Language authority recommended to the council shall be the authority for the designated language and culture for the purposes of standard 73.

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14. For the purposes of issuing First Nations Language Teacher Certificates, the council recognizes the following First Nations Language Authorities:
1. Coast Salish Language Authority (Coast Salish)
  2. Dah Dzahge Nodesidē/Tahltan Language and Culture Council (Tāltān Dah)
  3. Fort Nelson First Nation Language Authority (Dene)
  4. Gitksan Language Authority (Gitksan)
  5. Heiltsuk Language Authority (Heiltsuk)
  6. Hul'q'umi'num' Language and Culture Society (Hul'q'umi'num' - Vancouver Island Dialect)
  7. Huu-ay-aht Language Authority (Huu-ay-aht)
  8. Ktunaxa Language Authority (Ktunaxa)
  9. Kwakwala Ni'nogad Language Authority (Kwakwala)
  10. Liq'wala/Kwakwala Language Authority (Liq'wala/Kwakwala)
  11. Musqueam Language Authority (Musqueam)
  12. Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (Nlaka'pamux)
  13. Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council for Nuu-chah-nulth Language Authority (Nuu-chah-nulth)
  14. Nuxalk Nation Council (Nuxalk)
  15. Okanagan Language Association (Okanagan)
  16. Old Massett Language Authority (Old Massett Haida)
  17. Quw'utsun Syuw'entst Lelum' Language Authority (Hul'qumi'num' – Cowichan Dialect)
  18. Saanich Language Authority (Sencoten)
  19. Scw'exmx Language Authority (Nle'kepmxcin - Scw'exmx Dialect)
  20. Secwépemc Language Authority (Secwépemc)
  21. Skidegate Haida Language Authority (Skidegate Dialect only)
  22. S'malgyax T'simshian Language Authority (S'malgyax T'simshian)
  23. Snuneymux First Nations Language Authority (Hul'qumi'num – Snuneymux Dialect)
  24. Spi7uy Sqweqwluts Language & Culture Society (Secwepemctsin)
  25. Sto:lo Nation Language Authority (Halq'eméylem)
  26. Treaty 8 Tribal Association Dane-zaa Language Authority (Dane-zaa)
  27. Tsilhqot'in Language Authority (Tsilhqot'in)
  28. Ts'msyen Sm'algyax Language Authority (Ts'msyen Sm'algyax)
  29. Ulkatcho Language Authority (Carrier)
  30. Upper St'at'imc Language and Culture Authority (St'at'imc)
  31. Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Language Authority Committee (Nisga'a)
  32. Wuikala' Language Authority (Wuikinuxv)
  33. Yinka Dene Language Institute (Athabaskan)

### **Developmental Standard Term Certificate**

15. A Developmental Standard Term Certificate is a certificate of qualification restricted to cook (chef) instructor, technology education, First Nations language instruction or other specialty

area determined by the council.

### **Trades Certificate**

16. A Trades Certificate is a certificate of qualification restricted to teaching a trade subject area offered within BC's K-12 systems as defined in standards 7 and 8.

### **VALIDITY OF CERTIFICATES OF QUALIFICATION**

17. Certificates of qualification are valid only if:
  - (a) the certificate holder pays the annual practice fee; and
  - (b) the certificate of qualification is not suspended or cancelled under the Act.
18. The validity date of a certificate of qualification shall be the date of issue.

### **Professional Certificate**

19. A Professional Certificate is a certificate of qualification without an expiry date.

### **Conditional Certificate**

20. A Conditional Certificate is a certificate of qualification with an expiry date.
21. The period of validity of a Conditional Certificate shall normally be, but shall not exceed, 60 months from the date of issue.
22. Upon application, a person holding a Conditional Certificate will be granted a Professional Certificate if all of the following conditions are met:
  - (a) the application for a Professional Certificate is received by the director prior to the expiry date of the Conditional Certificate;
  - (b) the applicant is a certificate holder in good standing; and
  - (c) the applicant submits transcripts showing the successful completion of all course work required by the director.
23. Upon application, an extension of up to one year may be granted to a Conditional Certificate if all of the following conditions are met:
  - (a) the application for extension is received by the director prior to the expiry date of the Conditional Certificate;
  - (b) the applicant is a certificate holder in good standing; and
  - (c) the applicant has been unable to complete the course work required by the director by reason of circumstances beyond the control of the applicant.

24. Upon application, an extension of up to four years may be granted to the holder of a Conditional Certificate issued pursuant to the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* where the initial evaluation required more than 18 credits of course work if all of the following conditions are met:
  - (a) the application for extension is received by the director prior to the expiry date of the Conditional Certificate;
  - (b) the applicant is a certificate holder in good standing; and
  - (c) the applicant submits transcripts showing completion of at least one half of the course work required by the director.
25. A person holding a valid Conditional Certificate may be granted an extension of one year where they
  - (a) are in receipt of long-term disability benefits;
  - (b) apply for an extension of their Conditional Certificate before its expiry date; and
  - (c) do not meet the requirements set out in standard 22(c).
26. Any person who held a Conditional Certificate that has expired may make an application for a certificate of qualification based on the certification standards in effect at the time of re-application.
27. Exclusive of standards 23, 24 and 25, no extension of a Conditional Certificate will be granted.

### **Developmental Standard Term Certificate**

28. The period of validity of a Developmental Standard Term Certificate shall be no more than 58 months from the date of issue.
29. Upon application, a Developmental Standard Term Certificate may be extended once for another four-year term dependent on the applicant's satisfactory progress towards a Professional Certificate or a Conditional Certificate.
30. The Development Standard Term Certificate shall be issued to an applicant who meets the criteria for a certificate as defined in standard 5.

### **Trades Certificate**

31. A Trades Certificate is a certificate of qualification without an expiry date.

## **UPGRADING OF CERTIFICATES OF QUALIFICATION**

32. A person holding a valid Developmental Standard Term Certificate or Conditional Certificate may, upon application, be issued a Professional Certificate if all of the following conditions are met
  - (a) the application for a Professional Certificate is received by the director prior to the expiry date of the certificate of qualification;
  - (b) the applicant is a certificate holder in good standing; and
  - (c) the applicant has submitted transcripts showing successful completion of any required course work.
  
33. Upon request, a person holding a valid Trades Certificate may be issued a Professional Certificate if all of the following conditions are met:
  - (a) the certificate holder is in good standing; and
  - (b) the certificate holder submits documentation showing successful completion of the requirements outlined in standard 2.
  
34. The director will send a notice of expiry of the Conditional Certificate to the certificate holder's last reported home address six months before the expiry date of the Conditional Certificate.

## **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF QUALIFICATION**

35. The applicant shall be required to acknowledge that they have read the Professional Standards for BC Educators and declare that they will be bound by them.

## **CRITERIA FOR A CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION – GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

36. Eligibility for a certificate of qualification shall be based on the following principles:
  - (a) proficiency in English or French;
  - (b) a broad understanding of Canadian culture and society;
  - (c) professional preparation suitable to undertake teaching assignments appropriate to the BC curriculum;
  - (d) specific knowledge appropriate to the BC curriculum; and
  - (e) an appropriate balance between professional, academic and/or specialist studies.



37. To be eligible for a certificate of qualification, a person:
- (a) must meet one of the following requirements:
    - i. have completed within the last ten years a program of professional and academic or specialist preparation offered in a BC post-secondary institution and acceptable to the director and have received a recommendation from that program;
    - ii. in the case of applicants from outside BC, have completed a program of professional and academic or specialist preparation that is comparable to those offered in BC; or
    - iii. in the case of an applicant for a First Nations Language Teacher Certificate, be recommended to the director by the appropriate First Nations Language authority as a proficient speaker of their First Nations language; or
    - iv. meet the requirements set under the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement*;
  - (b) may be required to provide evidence as to the nature of any and all service previously given in the capacity of a teacher including practice teaching;
38. No certificate of qualification will be issued if an evaluation of an application determines that required course work from a previous evaluation which led to the issuing of a Conditional Certificate, an Interim Professional Certificate, or an Interim Standard Certificate is still required and remains incomplete.

### **Quality of Training**

39. Only trades certification recognized or issued by the BC Industry Training Authority shall be accepted by the director for the purposes of granting certificates.

### **Acceptable Degrees or Equivalent**

40. A degree shall be considered acceptable for a Professional or Conditional Certificate if it has been granted by a post-secondary institution acceptable to the director and the applicant has a minimum four-year program and not less than 120 credit/semester hours beyond BC grade 12, or equivalent.
41. Course work completed as part of the professional studies component of a teacher education program will not satisfy the academic course work specified in standards 52-75, unless the specific course(s) has (have) been approved by the council under the Teacher Education Program Approval Standards or are acceptable to the director under standard 52-75 for this purpose.

### **Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology**

42. The director may accept credit from a College of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT) as follows:
  - (a) up to 30 credit/semester hours of block transfer for completion of a three-year CAAT program;
  - (b) up to 18 credit/semester hours of block transfer for completion of a two-year CAAT program; and
  - (c) no transfer credit will be recognized for course work completed as part of a one-year CAAT program.
43. All recognized block transfer credit from a CAAT must be an integrated component of an acceptable degree as defined in standards 40 and 41.

### **LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

44. To be considered eligible for a certificate of qualification, a person must meet the language proficiency requirement for teaching in English or French.
45. The director may grant the applicant an exemption from the requirements of standard 44 where an applicant has:
  - (a) completed their secondary school education, including grade 12, in Canada in the English or French Language, or
  - (b) verified successful teaching experience in Canada in the English or French language, of at least five years duration, and has received a successful teaching report.

### **English Language Proficiency**

46. A person who teaches in the English language must provide evidence of an acceptable score on a language proficiency test as outlined in standards 47 and 48 if:
  - (a) the applicant completed their post-secondary education in countries other than those outlined in standards 49; or
  - (b) the director has reason to believe the applicant is not proficient in the English language.

47. Acceptable scores for fulfilling the English language proficiency requirement are:
- (a) a total score of 580 (paper-based test) or 237 (computer-based test) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), and a score of 50 on the Test of Spoken English (Professional) (TSE-P); or
  - (b) a total score of 98 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), Internet-based test (iBT), with the following minimum subtest scores: 23 on Reading and Listening; 27 on Speaking; and 25 on Writing; or
  - (c) an overall band score of 6.5 on the academic version of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), with no band below 6 and with a minimum of 7 on the Speaking and Writing bands.
48. Proficiency requirement scores under standard 47 are valid for two years from the date of the test.
49. The director may exempt any or all of the English language proficiency testing requirements for an applicant who has completed all their post-secondary education in Canada, the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Ireland or the United Kingdom, or from any of the following countries where English is essentially the only language used:
- (a) Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts-Nevis; or
  - (b) Any other nation where the applicant can provide documented evidence that the primary/secondary and post-secondary/tertiary education is conducted in English only.

### **French Language Proficiency**

50. A person who teaches in the French language must demonstrate a satisfactory command of written and spoken French by;
- (a) showing that they have completed all their education in the French language;
  - (b) providing a letter from a Francophone Education Authority indicating their proficiency in French;
  - (c) providing a minimum score of B1 on the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DEL F) or C1 on the Diplôme approfondi de langue française (DALF); or
  - (d) providing a written assessment by faculty of the French Department of a Canadian university, acceptable to the director, attesting that the person has demonstrated knowledge of the French language to indicate that they are capable of conducting all their teaching in the French language.

## **CRITERIA FOR A CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION – ACADEMIC PREPARATION**

### **Grade 12 Equivalence**

51. An applicant must have BC grade 12 or equivalent as determined by the Director.

### **Acceptable Academic Preparation**

52. An applicant for a certificate of qualification must have successfully completed a program of academic studies in faculties other than the Faculty of Education.
53. The courses qualifying for academic background may not include professional course work from another discipline.
54. All applicants must have successfully completed a minimum of 6 credit/semester hours or equivalent of undergraduate English or French course work. For applicants teaching in the English language, the course work must be in English; for those teaching in the French language the course work must be in French. The following standards apply to the course work:
  - (a) the 6 credit/semester hours must include both literature and composition and must be comparable to post-secondary courses taken at a BC university;
  - (b) 3 credit/semester hours of composition may be credited to applicants who have completed a thesis in the relevant language as part of a masters or doctorate degree acceptable to the director; and
  - (c) the University of British Columbia English exemption examination shall not be considered to satisfy the academic English requirement for a certificate of qualification as outlined above for students accepted into the UBC teacher education program after January 1, 1993.
55. An applicant whose initial teacher education preparation is for assignments at the Kindergarten to grade 7 levels must have completed a minimum of 30 credit/semester hours or equivalent of their studies in faculties other than the Faculty of Education, which includes the following academic course work:
  - (a) 3 credit/semester hours or equivalent of sciences, as defined in standard 56;
  - (b) 3 credit/semester hours or equivalent of mathematics; and
  - (c) 3 credit/semester hours or equivalent of Canadian studies.
56. Disciplines that will be recognized toward fulfilment of standard 55(a) are biology, chemistry, physics, physical geography, geology/earth science, ocean science, environment science and astronomy.

57. An applicant for a certificate of qualification, who is deficient in not more than 12 credit/semester hours or equivalent of academic course work as specified in standards 53, 54 and 55, may be granted a Conditional Certificate. Any other deficiency in academic course work must be completed before a Conditional Certificate is issued.
58. An applicant who is eligible for a Conditional Certificate pursuant to the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* may be granted a Conditional Certificate with more than 12 credit/semester hours of course work to complete.
59. An applicant whose initial teacher education preparation is for assignments at the levels of grade 8 and above must have completed a minimum of 24 credit/semester hours of academic course work in one teachable subject area. These studies must be in fields of knowledge that are compatible with the curriculum expectations in BC secondary schools, and in sufficient depth to ensure an appropriate knowledge and understanding of the subject, as defined in standards 60 and 61.
60. For the purposes of standard 59, the subject areas taught in BC secondary schools are:
- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Art                   | Home Economics       |
| Biology               | Italian              |
| Business Education    | Japanese             |
| Chemistry             | Korean               |
| Computer Science      | Mandarin             |
| Dance                 | Mathematics          |
| Drama                 | Music                |
| Earth Science         | Physical Education   |
| English               | Physics              |
| First Nations Studies | Punjabi              |
| French                | Russian              |
| General Science       | Social Studies       |
| Geography             | Spanish              |
| German                | Special Education    |
| History               | Technology Education |
61. For the purpose of standard 60, at least 6 of the 24 credit/semester hours must be studies in theory (that is, non-studio) in the following areas: Art, Dance, Drama, Music. If the applicant has at least 24 credit/semester hours in the teaching area but lacks the theory course work, the courses may be completed during the validity period of a Conditional Certificate.

62. The subject area of social studies consists of 24 credit/semester hours which must include:
- (a) 3 credit/semester hours of Canadian studies;
  - (b) 3 credit/semester hours of geography;
  - (c) 3 credit/semester hours of history; and
  - (d) 15 credit/semester hours of academic course work in one or a combination of anthropology, economics, political science, sociology, history and geography.
63. A Canadian geography course will satisfy the requirements in standard 62 (a) and (b) for Canadian studies and geography content but the course will only count for the credit value awarded it on the transcript. An applicant must complete a total of 24 credit/semester hours.
64. A Canadian history course will satisfy the requirements in standard 62 (a) and (c) for Canadian studies and history content but the course will only count for the credit value awarded it on the transcript. An applicant must complete a total of 24 credit/semester hours.
65. For the purpose of standard 62(d), course work relating to these disciplines taken in Canadian studies, Asian studies, women's studies, First Nations studies, religious studies of a non-doctrinal nature, classical studies, urban studies, and environmental studies, or other courses at the discretion of the director may be credited provided an examination of the course description reveals such a relationship.
66. If the applicant has at least 24 credit/semester hours in social studies, but lacks the courses described in standard 62 (a), (b) and (c), the courses may be completed during the validity period of a Conditional Certificate.
67. For the purpose of standards 55(c) and 62(a), the focus of a Canadian studies course must be on understanding the Canadian experience and the Canadian content must be central to the conceptual thesis of the course, rather than existing only in exemplar supporting concepts of another academic discipline.
68. For the purpose of standard 33, an individual holding a Trades Certificate who completes a minimum of 6 credit/semester hours in each of two additional areas within technology education is deemed to have met standard 59.

### **Prior Learning Assessment**

69. Applicants and certificate holders may receive recognition and credit for demonstrated knowledge, skills and attributes in accordance with standards 70 and 71.

70. Applicants and certificate holders may receive prior learning assessment credit for course work which was
- (a) assessed;
  - (b) appears on a transcript;
  - (c) was awarded by an institution acceptable to the director; and
  - (d) was awarded by an institution which either has an articulated process which follows the Prior Learning Assessment Implementation Guidelines for BC from the BC Transfer Guide, as posted on the BC Council on Admissions & Transfer website at [www.bccat.bc.ca](http://www.bccat.bc.ca) or a process deemed to be equivalent.
71. An applicant whose first language is not English and who wishes to teach that language as a second language will be awarded the equivalence of up to 24 credit/semester hours of academic course work in the language if the applicant has:
- (a) completed a post-secondary degree in a country where the language is the primary language of instruction;
  - (b) completed an acceptable score on a language proficiency test as outlined in standard 72; or
  - (c) completed an assessment by a Canadian university faculty, acceptable to the director, who are specialists in that language, attesting that the applicant has demonstrated knowledge of the language equivalent to up to 24 credit/semester hours of course work done in that language.
72. For the purpose of equivalency under standard 71 language proficiency tests and scores for French are a minimum score of C1 or equivalent on the French Proficiency Test administered by the University of British Columbia Faculty of Education.

### **First Nations Language Teacher Certificate**

73. An applicant qualifying for a First Nations Language Teacher Certificate under standard 4 shall have the recommendation of the appropriate First Nations Language authority to teach their First Nations language and culture.

### **Development Standard Term Certificate**

74. An applicant qualifying for a Developmental Standard Term Certificate under standard 5(a) must have completed 30 credit/semester hours of arts and science university transfer courses, including 6 credits credit/semester hours of English composition and literature and an inter-provincial trades qualification program "Red Seal" (cook) or equivalent.
75. An applicant qualifying for a Developmental Standard Term Certificate under standard 5(b) must complete an academic program of studies approved by the council and a First Nations language program approved by the council.

## **CRITERIA FOR A CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION – PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION**

### **Acceptable Specialist Preparation**

76. An applicant qualifying for the Trades Certificate through standard 6 must:
- (a) hold a Red Seal or ITA certificate of qualification recognized or issued by the BC Industry Training Authority; and
  - (b) have a minimum 5 years of journeyperson work and/or teaching experience in the trade area as defined in standard 8.

### **Acceptable Professional Preparation**

77. An applicant must have successfully completed an acceptable teacher education program which must include 48 credit/semester hours or equivalent of professional education course work, including a practicum as defined in standard 82.
78. To be considered acceptable, a teacher education program shall either
- (a) be a program offered at a BC post-secondary institution and approved by the council; or
  - (b) if outside BC, be a program which
    - i. is offered at a post-secondary institution acceptable to the director;
    - ii. satisfies the requirements of standard 77-88; and
    - iii. has resulted in a licence to teach being granted in the jurisdiction in which the teacher education program was completed.
79. An acceptable teacher education program must include studies in:
- (a) human development and learning;
  - (b) educational foundations (history, philosophy, sociology);
  - (c) curriculum and instruction in the applicable teaching area(s);
  - (d) diagnosing and providing for the educational needs of individual students; and
  - (e) evaluation and testing.
80. An applicant for a certificate of qualification who has a deficiency in academic course work allowed under standards 52-75, and who has successfully completed a minimum of 30 credit/semester hours of professional education course work and practice teaching, is deemed to have completed an acceptable teacher education program, but must complete the following during the validity period of their Conditional Certificate:
- (a) any required professional education course work; and
  - (b) any required academic course work.



81. An applicant from outside BC who qualifies for the Conditional Certificate under the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* is deemed to have completed an acceptable teacher education program but must complete any required professional education course work during the validity period of their Conditional Certificate.

### **Acceptable Practicum**

82. An acceptable practicum as it applies to standard 77 is defined as one which:
- (a) is normally of 12 weeks, but not less than 10 weeks in duration;
  - (b) is recognized by an accredited university and is supervised by that university's Faculty of Education; and
  - (c) takes place under the supervision of one or more school advisors who are certified in the jurisdiction in which the practicum takes place.
83. Applicants who have completed 75 days of satisfactory teaching experience within one school year or 100 days of satisfactory teaching experience over two consecutive school years in the 10-year period prior to the date of application to the director, will be deemed to have completed an acceptable practicum as defined in standard 82 provided that
- (a) there is a practicum supervised by the university in their teacher education program; and
  - (b) the teaching experience being considered is verified by way of a satisfactory teaching report or a letter of recommendation by a superintendent of schools, a chief executive officer, an assistant superintendent of schools, a principal or a vice-principal who supervised the experience.

### **Prior Learning Assessment**

84. Certificate holders holding a Conditional Certificate may have up to 6 credits of education course work exempted provided that:
- (a) they have successful full-time teaching experience in BC for at least 1.5 school years (the equivalent of 15 months teaching time) while holding a certificate of qualification; and
  - (b) they have provided evidence by way of an evaluation from a certificate holder who is a superintendent of schools, a chief executive officer, an assistant superintendent of schools, or a principal or a vice-principal who has supervised and assessed the certificate holder's classroom performance that they demonstrated competency in teaching related to the course work required.
85. Teaching experience may be part time and/or full-time teaching assignments amounting to the equivalence of 1.5 school years (the equivalent of 15 months teaching time) of full-time teaching.

## **Familiarization**

86. If an applicant for a certificate of qualification has completed a teacher education program, but it is not similar in philosophy to a BC teacher education program, the applicant shall be required to successfully complete an approved program of study as outlined in standard 90.
87. An applicant will be exempted from the requirements in standard 86 if they have successful teaching experience in a jurisdiction considered to have an education system comparable to the BC public education system amounting to:
- (a) at least 1.5 school years (the equivalent of 15 months teaching time) of employment on a full-time basis, as verified by employer(s), for which a valid licence to teach is required; or
  - (b) at least .2 of full-time employment in a part-time position when the part-time service can be accumulated to a total of 1.5 school years (the equivalent of 15 months teaching time), as verified by employer(s), for which a valid licence to teach is required; and
  - (c) the applicant has submitted a satisfactory teaching report from that teaching experience.
88. The following factors will be taken into consideration in determining whether an education system is comparable to the BC education system, as required in standard 87:
- (a) experience where the teacher has organized a classroom with students as active participants;
  - (b) experience in classrooms where children are actively involved in large and small groups;
  - (c) experience planning and adapting lessons where there are students with special needs and students from different ethnic background;
  - (d) experience using a variety of student assessment and evaluation methods;
  - (e) experience with similar class size and curriculum to that used in BC public schools; and
  - (f) familiarity with available learning resources in BC public schools.

## **Approved Programs**

89. An approved program of study required in standard 95 shall be comprised of 12 credit/semester hours or equivalent of updating course work in education methodology and a minimum 6 weeks of supervised student teaching in an acceptable classroom setting supervised by an approved teacher education program within BC.

90. An approved program of study required in standard 86 shall be comprised of either:
- (a) 12 credit/semester hours of education methodology related to their teaching area and a minimum 6 weeks of supervised student teaching in an acceptable classroom setting, supervised by an approved teacher education program within BC; or
  - (b) The Professional Qualification Program offered through Simon Fraser University.
91. In special circumstances where an applicant requires a practicum and a Faculty of Education is not prepared to or is not able to supervise the required practicum within a reasonable distance from an applicant's home, or within a reasonable time period, the director may arrange the practicum with the cooperation of school district officials.
92. Credit received for the updating and familiarization course work required under standard 89 and standard 90 may be credited towards a Professional Certificate.

### **Historical Programs**

93. Where an applicant for a certificate of qualification has completed the Ontario Short Program (1970-1975), comprised of 18 credit/semester hours of professional course work and required practica, leading to an Ontario provincial certificate and
- (a) has at least 10 years of full-time teaching experience; and
  - (b) provides a satisfactory teaching report written within the 10 years prior to the date of application,

the director deems that the applicant has satisfied the full professional requirements as outlined in standard 77-88.

## **CRITERIA FOR A CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION – TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Acceptable Teaching Experience**

94. For the purposes of qualifying for a certificate of qualification, an applicant is required to have teaching experience acceptable to the director with all of the following characteristics:
- (a) the teacher and/or educational administrator is primarily responsible for the planning, delivery and evaluation of an instructional program;
  - (b) the subject and curriculum taught does not significantly differ from curriculum areas and subjects widely taught in the BC school system;
  - (c) the teaching experience amounts to at least 75 days in one school year or 100 days in two consecutive school years in the 10 years prior to application, which has been verified by employing officials; and
  - (d) The instructional methods, management and delivery are comparable to that which occurs in the BC K-12 school system.

### **Currency of Teaching Experience in the Last Ten Years**

95. An applicant who has not met the currency requirements as defined in standard 94, shall be required to successfully complete an approved program of study as outlined in standard 89 before a certificate of qualification may be granted.
96. All applicants whose applications are received on or before December 31 of the 10<sup>th</sup> calendar year since the applicant's last acceptable teaching experience shall be deemed to have had teaching experience within the 10 years prior to the date of application.

### **Currency of Teaching Experience in the Last Twenty Years**

97. An applicant for a certificate of qualification who has not had teaching experience as defined in standard 94(c) amounting to at least 75 days in one school year or 100 days in two consecutive years in the 20 years prior to the date of application, shall be required to successfully complete an acceptable teacher education program.
98. All applicants whose applications are received on or before December 31 of the 20<sup>th</sup> calendar year since the applicant's last acceptable teaching experience shall be deemed to have had teaching experience within the 20 years prior to the date of application.

### **Accredited Band Schools**

99. An accredited band school shall have successfully completed the First Nations Schools Association schools assessment process within five years prior to the date of application for a non-expiring certificate of qualification.

## **RE-EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION**

100. An applicant whose qualifications have been evaluated for the purposes of granting a certificate of qualification may apply for re-evaluation of their qualifications only if there is a change in circumstances since the first evaluation.
101. The changes in circumstances which will be considered on an application for re- evaluation are as follows:
- (a) Where the director has determined a need for updating, satisfactory teaching experience gained in the following will be considered:
    - i. a BC public school;
    - ii. a Group 1, Group 2 or Group 4 independent school;
    - iii. an accredited First Nations school;
    - iv. an offshore school approved by the ministry; or
    - v. another jurisdiction where the education system is deemed comparable to that of BC.
  - (b) The requirement for updating courses and/or a practicum may be waived on production of evidence, in the form of letters of reference or satisfactory teaching reports from principals, of:
    - i. 75 days of substitute teaching experience in one school year or 50 days in each of two consecutive school years;
    - ii. at least 75 days of teaching experience with a letter of permission;
    - iii. full-time teaching experience for a four-month period within one school year; or
    - iv. part-time teaching experience on a .4 of greater contract for a 10-month period.
  - (c) An applicant who has previously applied for a certificate of qualification and who becomes aware of a change in the certification standards which may favourably alter the original evaluation may request a re-evaluation.

### **Re-evaluation Fee**

102. If an application for re-evaluation is made within three years of the date of the initial evaluation, then no fee is required.

### **Reinstatement**

103. The director may reinstate the certificate of qualification of a former certificate holder if the person satisfies the director upon application that they:
- (a) formerly held a non-expiring certificate of qualification that was cancelled

under section 33(2)(a) or (e) of the Act or was relinquished;

- (b) has satisfactory recent teaching experience, verified in writing by the employer, of at least one school year on a full-time basis, or the accumulated part-time equivalent, in the five years immediately prior to the application date in:
  - i. a BC public school;
  - ii. a Group 1, Group 2 or Group 4 BC independent school; or
  - iii. an accredited First Nations school in BC.

## **LETTERS OF ELIGIBILITY AND EVALUATION**

### **Letters of Eligibility**

- 104. A letter of eligibility represents official verification that an applicant has met the requirements for a certificate of qualification.
- 105. A letter of eligibility shall be valid for a non-renewal period of up to 6 months from the date of issue.
- 106. Recipients of letters of eligibility who have not satisfied requirements for obtaining their certificate of qualification within the period of validity must apply for a re-evaluation of their qualifications under the certification standards in effect at the time of re-evaluation.

### **Letters of Evaluation**

- 107. A letter of evaluation is correspondence defining the academic, specialist and professional course work an applicant is required to complete.
- 108. A letter of evaluation is valid for a non-renewable period of up to five years from the date of issue, unless otherwise specified by other standards in effect at the time of issue of the letter.
- 109. If designated course work remains outstanding five years from the date the letter of evaluation is issued, a re-evaluation of the applicant's qualification under the certification standards in effect at the time of re-evaluation will be required.