



September 28, 2015

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Dear Superintendents and Board Chairs:

Today, the Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister of Education and Jim Iker, President of the BC Teachers' Federation announced a three year support plan to help teachers deliver the curriculum efficiently and effectively in their classrooms. All education partner groups were on hand today to show their support.

Highlights of the support plan include \$1 million to fund targeted training this school year. The funding will be used to support training for 2,000 teachers across the province on the new curriculum, and provide for additional professional inservice for teachers.

The full news release and background information can be viewed at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/education>.

A significant aspect of this announcement is that teachers will be provided time to be trained on and to collaborate with their colleagues regarding the new curriculum. It is a re-allotment of the instructional hours in the year to allow teachers this time to collaborate on the curriculum changes.

Ten new hours of non-instructional time are being designated for teachers this year so that they can become familiar with the new curriculum. How this time is spread throughout the school year will be decided by local school districts and teacher associations through agreement between the superintendent and local president.

As leaders in your district and your schools, we will be providing you with more specific details in the days to come. We ask for your continued support and leadership through the upcoming implemented changes, as you share this information with your Boards, teachers, and parents.

In the days ahead, we encourage you to begin to think about those individuals in your districts who would support the teachers in the local learning sessions. All teachers will be selected by the BCTF local, similar to the curriculum design.

Through local learning sessions, a group of teachers will be brought together at the district level for a provincial overview of the new curriculum. These groups will spend a full day working directly with the new curriculum and, working with the district administration, will design how the collaboration time (10 hours) will be structured in their specific district. These teachers will

return to their schools prepared to help their colleagues work with the curriculum. Travel support will be given to rural districts to support teachers that need to incur expenses to attend the local learning sessions.

The Ministry is partnering with the BCTF to create a provincial framework to be used by teachers and school districts to help guide their work designing the 10 hours of non-instructional time in their districts.

The plan announced today also includes webinars, videos and other support materials so teachers can learn about the changes that have occurred in the provincial curriculum.

We are confident that these supports, developed by working collaboratively with the BCTF and its members, are solid investments in teachers that will result in great success. We will be providing you with further updates including funding allocation information very soon.

Sincerely,



Dave Byng
Deputy Minister

pc: Principals and Vice-Principals

Attachment: Curriculum Support Plan

Curriculum Support Plan

Year 1: \$1M for targeted training and 10 new hours of non-instructional time dedicated to curriculum implementation.
Targeted Training: 2000 teachers trained will be trained via Local Learning sessions. A group of teachers will be brought together at the district level for a provincial overview and will spend a full day working directly with the new curriculum and design how the collaboration time (10 hours) could best be structured in their district. These teachers will return to their schools prepared to help their colleagues phase in the curriculum.
10 hours of non-instructional time for all teachers this school year to become familiar with the new curriculum. How the time is spread throughout the school year will be decided by local school districts and teacher associations based on a provincial framework.
Provincial Framework: a provincial framework to be used by teachers and school districts to guide their work designing the 10 hours non-instructional time. This provincial framework will be co-created between the Ministry and the BCTF.
Provincial Supports: provincial webinar, instructional videos, printed brochures, planning guides and PowerPoint materials.
YEAR 2: 5 new hours of non-instructional time dedicated to curriculum implementation plus government's designated pro-d day.
YEAR 3: 5 new hours of non-instructional time dedicated to curriculum implementation plus government's designated pro-d day.