



BC TEAL POSITION STATEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE AND NEED FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (MAY 2014)

In British Columbia, Teachers of English as an Additional Language (TEAL) work in diverse contexts ranging from K-12 and post-secondary public institutions to private schools and a variety of other for-profit and not-for-profit agencies. BC TEAL has a commitment to the professional development (PD) needs of its members. It is noteworthy that not all teachers are provided with regular financial and time support to engage in professional development. BC TEAL recognizes that PD can take place in the form of workshops and seminars provided in-house by employers and also at professional development events and conferences such as those organized by BC TEAL and other professional associations. The ability to periodically interact and gain exposure to new ideas and refresh one's teaching practice at PD events is critical to an instructor's ability to grow as a professional, and make contributions to their field. Just as other professionals (e.g. doctors, engineers) are required to engage in regular PD, so too is it required of professionals in the field of teaching English as an additional language (TEAL).

BC TEAL's position is that all employers need to support and encourage all instructors - full-time, part-time, contract and contingent faculty - in continued professional development. Financial support to attend and participate in professional development activities is crucial to one's professional growth. Similarly, it is BC TEAL's position that all TEAL instructors need to partake in regular professional development opportunities.

Rationale:

- Regular professional development keeps instructors abreast of developments in the field.
- Regular professional development helps recharge instructors and network with colleagues.
- Students benefit from instructors' regular participation in professional development activities.
- Schools and employers gain from having instructors who are in tune with best teaching practices and reenergize themselves through participation at PD events.

BC TEAL's position is that all schools, regardless of the size or sector (for-profit, public, and not-for-profit) should provide regular professional development support for their instructors. It is also BC TEAL's position that all TEAL professionals need to regularly participate in regular professional development opportunities.