



Professional Currency – Practice/Continuing Education

The B.C. College of Teachers (BCCT) recently released a Notice of Motion regarding changes to the by-law regarding teacher certification after inactivity in the profession.

The current situation is if a member pays their annual BCCT fees they may re-enter the teaching profession without any mandatory skills upgrade for up to 20 years. The new by-law would reduce this time to 10 years; however BCCT would not recognize any absence when members' fees have been paid via payroll deduction by a School District. Notice would go out first after a 5 year absence and then 9 years. Teachers would have to prove significant teaching experience within the ten years – 75 days/ year or 100 days every 2 years for part-time teachers. Teachers working less may appeal.

Teachers deemed to have lost Currency would be required to take upgrade courses in at least 5 out of 6 areas: Assessment, Technology Education, Aboriginal Education, Integrating Special Needs Students, Student Centered Learning and Classroom Management. In addition a mandatory 10 week Practicum will introduce new curriculum and determine competency.

BCCT is the only provincial professional college without mandated re-training for members that have been inactive in their profession. Most professional colleges are using three years as a period of inactivity requiring skills upgrade. Teachers, who pay their annual BCCT fees via payroll deduction, will not be flagged regardless of how much or how little they teach. This will create inequities between some teachers. For example, a teacher leaves the profession for 10 years to raise a family versus a Teacher On Call (TOC) who may only work a few days a year.

BCCPAC will continue to investigate, receive input and respond to these proposed changes.

For the complete list of BCCT by-laws go to:

<http://www.bcct.ca/documents/AboutUs/BylawsPolicies/bylaws.pdf>