



Maple Ridge Teachers' Association

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Pro-D Committee Chair: Jennifer MacDonald

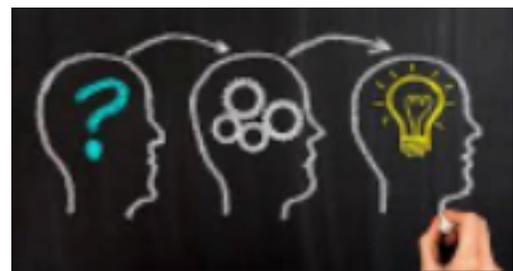
Spring 2022

Professional Growth Plans

As the PGP facilitator, I often have teachers wondering what more formal Professional Growth Planning looks like, how it is supported by both the District and the MRTA, and where to access the resources available to teachers who have chosen to work within a Professional Growth Plan framework. The truth remains...the ways professional growth planning play out are as diverse as teachers themselves. This year, we have a number of teachers working in a variety of ways. Some teachers are working within a school-specific team as a part of their participation in the Literacy Inquiry Network or the Secondary Inquiry Network, which means both their PGP and their teamwork at the school level are intertwined. As well, we have teachers working within a small topic-specific cohort that includes four check-in meetings and supported facilitation through the Teacher-Inquiry process. There are also teachers choosing to work independently, in a self-directed fashion, with occasional check-ins. Teachers have found the experience to be helpful:

"I appreciate the time we had when we met for PGP. It gave me a way to focus on a question I had about my practice. I needed the feedback from the facilitator to make my questions more specific, I found it easier to move forward. Having a specific focus also made it possible to start with smaller steps, instead of big, unattainable goals."
Ms. Sara Campbell, teacher, SD42 (PGP cohort)

"Taking students outside for Nature Journaling can seem like a scary task especially with our West Coast Weather. Connecting with other like-minded educators, sharing ideas, trying out some of the ideas, revisiting the land and connections have all been amazing through the PGP. *Maarsii* (Michif word for *thank you*) for giving us room to grow and explore as professionals!" Ms. Jocelyn McIntosh, teacher, SD42 (Literacy Inquiry School Team)



SD42 continues to be a district that values both committed professional growth and professional autonomy throughout this process. In support of this, both the MRTA and the School District have dedicated resources and facilitation for those teachers willing to be a part of creating a Professional Growth Plan. Looking forward to the coming year! If you would like to be a part of the PGP or if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at anita_neufeld@sd42.ca.

PSAs: Provincial Specialist Associations

*Do you have an area of interest? What goals are you working on to stretch your knowledge and teaching lens? The **PSAs** may be the answer for you!*

Provincial Specialists Associations are supported by the BCTF and are groups of like-minded educators learning and working together to improve teaching and learning in this province. There are more than thirty (30) PSAs to choose from that cover the arts, grade levels, languages, equity, gifted, technology and all the other areas that we come across in teaching. There are fees attached to membership, most around the \$30 mark, including the Early Career Teachers Association. If you attend the yearly conference of the association, membership is often included as part of the registration cost. An example of what PSAs do: MyPITA, the Intermediate and Middle Years PSA, hosts two major conferences per year (I highly recommend the spring conference in Whistler - a great way to use your PD money), sends out newsletters with information about what is happening in the province, teaching ideas and real teacher stories and experiences as well as frequently works with other PSAs to bring about workshops and other talks throughout the year, often at no cost to participants as well as maintain a webpage with tons of information and resources. To check out the list of PSAs, go here: <https://www.bctf.ca/services-guidance/contacts#provincial-specialist-associations>

Local Graduate Diploma Opportunity

SD42 and SFU are working together to bring a Graduate Diploma in Advanced Studies learning opportunity to our community, “*Teaching for Equity and Social Justice*”. Facilitated by Surrey teacher and SFU

professor, Jas Uppal and beginning in September, this program will use a blended learning model - some remote and some in-person - learning opportunities on Wednesdays, hosted at SD42 facilities. The program will involve course and field work, looking at Indigenous



and holistic education, cultural humility, integrating global perspectives into the classroom as well as gender identity and sexual orientation, critical multiculturalism, and anti-racism, racism and intersectionality. Completing this thirty (30) credit, two year program, which involves summer sessions, will move you up one TQS category. To register for the next online information session on Thursday, April 7th, register here: [Eventbrite: Teaching for Equity and Social Justice](#) and to learn more, go here: [Info: SFU - Teaching for Equity and Social Justice](#). Applications for this program close on **July 15th, 2022**.

Convention 2022

“Our Stories, Our Voices” is our convention title for this year and the focus is equity, diversity and looking at how our systems need to shift and change to support all our learners and their families. On this May 11th event, we are honoured to have Kevin Lamoureux, educator, author and Education Lead for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation as our Zoom keynote speaker. He will be sharing his stories, research and knowledge around reconciliation and ways that we can begin to deconstruct the idea of “otherness” in our communities and education system. As we think exponentially about the changes that need to occur to our systems, we need to act incrementally, and coming together on this day to hear a variety of voices is a great step on this path forward. More information about the day will be coming out in April, including when and how to register.



Accessing the MRTA Website For Pro-D Information

On the MRTA website: [MRTA Website](#), there is a lot of information to help support your professional development needs. From the homepage, you can access PD information under the “More” menu, either choosing from the “Forms” or the “Committees” options. The Committees page hosts the PSA link, a list of reminders for self-directed PD, a link to the BCTF Events page and the link to the Learning page on Spark. Via the *Forms and Policy* page, you can access individual and group pro-d forms as well as the most recent policies guiding our pro-d work and learning as well as some tips for filling out the forms.

Call Out for Members



The **Pro-D Committee** still has a few seats available and is also recruiting for next year! The committee meets typically 6-8 times a year to discuss, adopt and amend policy, look at different professional learning opportunities and help create opportunities for learning for our colleagues. If Professional Learning is something you are interested in or want to learn more about, send an email of interest to kelly@mrtaooffice.com.



May 11 [Our Stories, Our Voices: Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Convention 2022](#)

May 13 [New Teachers' Conference](#)

May 20 [Provincial Intermediate and Middle Years Teachers' Association Spring Conference](#)