

Professional Development

Maple Ridge Teachers Association

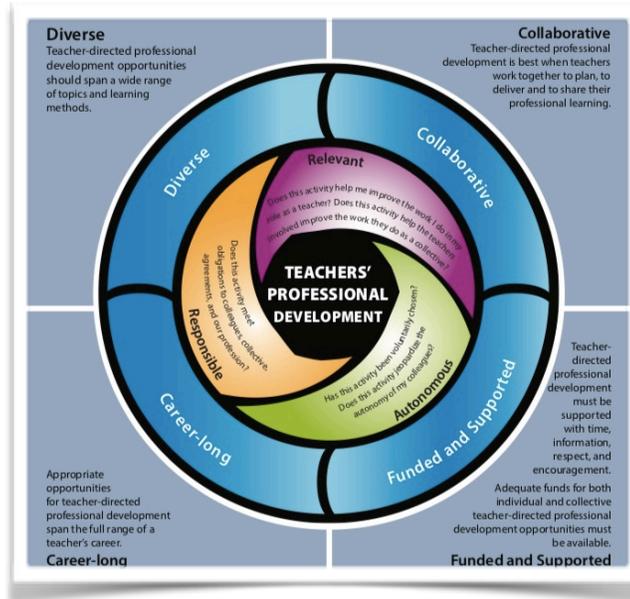
Welcome to professional development in 2020!

The Provincial Specialists Associations (PSAs) are hosting their October 23rd sessions virtually.

If you are looking for a plethora of district offerings on October 23rd, you won't find any.

This first Pro-D day of the year is saved for the Provincial Specialist Associations. PSAs are groups that share a common interest like Music, Math, Early Career Teachers, Primary or Culinary Arts. Each October, many of the PSAs host conferences. Because of the current pandemic situation, some PSAs, like TIEBC (Cross Currents), are deciding to join in on this day, hosting their conferences now instead of later in the year. With the online platform, many of the conferences seem to cost between \$50 and \$100. Registering for a conference also includes membership in the PSA for the year (newsletters, teaching ideas and possibly other workshop offerings). There are over 25 PSAs participating in PSA Day. Registration information and a schedule for the day can be found on the PSA Day website.

The MRTA Professional Development Committee is accepting applications for reimbursement on a first come first served basis. See how to apply for reimbursement on the right!



Applying For Individual Pro-D Fund Reimbursement

1. Request a *yellow* Joint Pro-D application form from your school Pro-D Rep or in the school office, the MRTA office, or the MRTA website (www.mrtaoffice.com)
2. Fill it out and have it signed by the Pro-D Rep and the administrator (whose signature is a courtesy).
3. Send the form to the MRTA office. (Applications should be received at least two weeks before the event date.)
4. Approved forms will be returned with a *purple* expense voucher form.
5. After the event, the purple form along with receipts, gets sent back to the MRTA in order to be reimbursed.

OCTOBER 23 Provincial PSA Day <div style="background-color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> 1 </div>	NOVEMBER 12 District Based <div style="background-color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> 2 </div>	JANUARY 25 School Based <div style="background-color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> 3 </div>	FEBRUARY 16 School Based <div style="background-color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> 4 </div>	MAY 12 District Convention <div style="background-color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> 5 </div>
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Professional Development or In-Service? What's the difference?

Both are learning opportunities to help us be better educators but what really is the difference?

“Professional development is a process of ongoing growth, through involvement in programs, services, and activities designed to enable teachers, both individually and collectively, to enhance professional practice.” (BCTF)

Members of the BCTF have the right to five professional development days within the school year and have the *professional autonomy* to plan those days. These are extra days in the calendar that do not take away from student learning.

The content of professional development activities are *not* to be used for school goal setting and/or School Improvement Plans, marking accountability assessment tools, marking, planning or voluntary activities (e.g., sports tournaments, science fairs, music festivals, drama productions). The Pro-D topic on a school based day is not the sole choice of the administrator nor can they make you attend. You always have the autonomy to choose how you spend your day. The school Pro-D Rep will work with staff to create a day that will be meaningful to the majority. You do need to let your administrator know how you will be spending your day for accountability purposes and you are to be in an educational location, not at home.

In-service is district or Ministry mandated training needed to carry out specific areas that governing authorities have identified as crucial to doing your job—such as a new student information service, privacy requirements, or new areas of curriculum. For example, you may be given a TOC to do training on a new assessment tool like the Performance Standards or be financially compensated for attending after school training for a replacement to MyED. In-service is more about how we do our jobs, usually more centred around the administrative side.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH PLANS

Professional Growth Plans create a focus for your growth as an educator which in turn enhances student success. It is a way to build a learning focus for the year, tying together professional development, pedagogical reading and classroom inquiry. This can be a solo adventure or done collaboratively with colleagues. In our district, this is a voluntary process and doesn't need to relate to district data or school goals.

Anita Neufeld is our new PGP facilitator. She is hoping to create a couple of specific cohorts, like Outdoor Education as well as a general group of teachers who wish to create a cohesive set of intentions to help focus the year ahead. If you wish to learn more about the PGP program, contact Anita at anita_neufeld@sd42.ca

