



June 10, 2025

Ref: 307345

Gunita Gupta, Chair
British Columbia Teachers' Council
Email: gunita.gupta@gov.bc.ca

Dear Gunita Gupta:

Congratulations on being elected to serve as the Chair of the British Columbia Teachers' Council (BCTC) for 2025/26.

The BCTC has an important mandate and is a critical partner in ensuring the delivery of quality teaching and learning in British Columbia's K-12 education system. The BCTC sets the standards for entry into the teaching profession as well as the standards that teachers are required to meet to maintain their certification, ensuring public trust and confidence in all educators in our system. The BCTC also oversees British Columbia's teacher education programs, setting standards, approving new programs and ensuring existing programs continue to meet the high standards required to recommend teacher candidates for entry into the profession.

As mentioned, when I met with Council, it is our government's priority to support effective learning for students across the province by expediting the certification and deployment of new and experienced international and domestic teachers, and to work with partners to prioritize excellence and global competitiveness of BC's student outcomes. To support these priorities, I am formally asking the BCTC to review, take action, and report on four areas of opportunity that are within your statutory mandate under the *Teachers Act*:

1- Certification Standards

I am requesting a thorough and expedient review of current certification standards with a view to eliminating unnecessary barriers and complexity, in particular for internationally educated teachers. This review should include considering academic, professional preparation and familiarization requirements to ensure that the experience and skill of teacher applicants is being considered and pre- and post-certification coursework does not place a disproportionate burden on qualified teachers from other jurisdictions.

2- Establishing additional certificate types

I am requesting a decision and action plan on creating differentiated certification pathways to better support the needs of the K-12 sector. You have the statutory ability to classify certificates of qualification into one or more types, including requiring that different certification standards be met for different types of certificates of qualification. I am requesting that you consult with K-12 partners and consider how you can create role-restricted certificates that still provide individuals with meaningful pathways to ladder to full certification.

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3- Teacher Education Program Approval and Review

I am requesting a review of current approval framework for teacher education programs, including consultation with post-secondary institutions, employers and rightsholders. I am requesting that you review the ways in which existing standards and approaches to approval may adversely impact rural, remote and First Nations communities in having access to teacher training programs. Specifically, I am requesting that you consider your existing “conflict of interest” requirements for practicum placements as well as your position on blended/online delivery of programs.

4- Ongoing mandatory professional development as a requirement for maintaining certification

You have the statutory ability to establish requirements for all teachers to maintain a certificate of qualification. I am requesting a decision on whether the BCTC will establish a framework for ongoing mandatory professional development, as a requirement for maintaining certification, that can support excellence for every educator throughout their career, regardless of role or employer type.

Under my authority as set out in section 17 of the *Teachers Act*, I am asking you to submit a report to me outlining your work, decisions and progress on the above four areas by **February 28, 2026**. Under section 17(2) I am required to make this report public within 45 days of receiving it. I understand the BCTC is already looking at removing barriers and complexity for teacher certification and increasing flexibility of teacher education programs and I look forward to hearing from about your progress in these areas.

As indicated when I met with you, in addition to the existing support from the BCTC Secretariat, you have access to the full expertise and capacity of Ministry of Education and Child Care staff in providing coordination, research and recommendations. I encourage you to work through the Secretariat to access the resources you need to undertake this work. I want to thank you for your commitment in taking on this important work. Together, we can make sure we have the pathways to get the teachers we need into the system, and support them throughout their careers, as they are foundational to the success of all of our children.

If you have any questions please contact Kiersten Fisher, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Workforce, Accountability and Governance Division, by email at Kiersten.Fisher@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



Lisa Beare
Minister

cc: Kiersten Fisher, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Workplace, Accountability and
Governance Division
British Columbia Teachers' Council