Education Update - November 28, 2016



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Ministry Staffing Announcement - Chief Educator

As many of you are aware, Dianne Turner our Chief Educator has accepted an interim role with the Vancouver School District. While Dianne is at the Vancouver School Board, Suzanne Hoffman has agreed to assume the responsibilities of the Chief Educator for a six month term with the option to extend.

The Chief Educator is responsible for leading British Columbia's education transformation to personalized learning, and providing subject matter and technical expertise to ensure BC student outcomes remain among the best in the world.

Suzanne brings with her 25 years of experience from the classroom to district leadership roles, most recently as the Superintendent of Schools in Langley. In May 2016, Suzanne was seconded to the Ministry to support the implementation of curriculum transformation.

Suzanne's transition into the Chief Educator role is effective immediately.

Ministry Seeking Public Input On Rural Education

To better understand the needs of students, parents, schools and communities in rural BC, the Province is seeking public input on rural education as part of a strategy being created by Linda Larson, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education.

Until January 9, 2017, British Columbians can join the online discussion at http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation, share stories on rural education, and thoughts around community development.

A draft discussion paper will then be developed and posted online for further public comment, in time for several regional meetings. Stakeholder groups may also submit formal submissions to government, which will be posted online.

All feedback received will help government shape a final report on an integrated rural education strategy, including recommendations for the future. The strategy will aim to find long-term solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts and communities, including looking at the important social, cultural, and economic roles that schools play for small communities.

For more information on the Rural Education engagement initiative, please see **Attachment 1** and refer to the News Release at https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016EDUC0256-002463.

Post-Secondary Institution Selections Are Now Open

The Ministry has opened Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) selections through the Student Secure Web in response to requests from schools.

https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/

The planned launch of the StudentTranscripts application has been updated to September 2017, to incorporate fuller functionality in conjunction with the post-secondary institutions.

Please contact <u>Lenore.Gibbons@gov.bc.ca</u> if you have questions.

2017/18 School Calendar Cycle

The school calendar forms for the 2017-18 submission cycle are now ready. As many of you know, there are two forms: the *School Calendar Form – General* and the *School Calendar Form – Distributed Learning*. Please see **Attachments 2-5** for copies of these forms. These documents will be posted to the Ministry of Education website next week as well.

In accordance with the School Act and regulations, boards must make their proposed calendars public by February 28, 2017, and submit their calendars to the Ministry by March 31, 2017.

Please advise if the person in your district who acts as the coordinator for the calendar submission process has changed and forward their contact information to educ.schoolcalendars@gov.bc.ca.

If you have any questions about the calendar submission process, please call the Legislation, Policy and Governance Branch at (250) 387-8037.

Student Satisfaction Survey 2017 - Update

Each year the Ministry administers a Student Satisfaction Survey. Students in Grades 4, 7, 10 and 12, their parents and all staff in B.C. public schools are invited to participate in this annual online satisfaction survey about their school experience.

Based on feedback from districts and educational partners, the Ministry is looking to better align the Student Satisfaction Survey with educational transformation efforts, such as the renewed curriculum and BC's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning. Reflecting this alignment, the 2016-2017 survey will be revised based on current educational research, and consultations with districts, students and other educational partners to ensure it is relevant and useful to districts as well as to the Ministry.

A new set of core questions are being developed with input from educators and students. As always, you can still add questions to the survey or retain any of the current core questions that you find are of value. The Ministry expects the new core questions to be complete in early February 2017, and at that time will notify schools and districts.

To allow time for new question development, the survey will be administered in mid-March. Please notify the survey provider immediately (AWIS: <u>Support@awinfosys.com</u> or toll-free: 866-558-5339) if this may cause scheduling difficulties for any of your schools. AWIS will contact you to identify possible options.

If you have any general questions about the survey revision, please contact Gerald Morton at <u>Gerald.Morton@gov.bc.ca</u>.

BC Teaching Certificates - Cancellations

Section 34 of the *Teachers Act* requires the Director of Certification to notify every board of education and independent school authority of teaching certificates that have been cancelled. On November 1, 2016, pursuant to section 33(2)(a) of the *Teachers Act*, teaching certificates were cancelled because the certificate holders did not pay their 2016-2017 annual practice fee by October 31, 2016. For details, please refer to **Attachment 6** or login to the Employer's Area on the Teacher Regulation Branch website: https://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/Employers/login.aspx.

If you have any questions after reviewing the notice, please contact Monica Winter at the Teacher Regulation Branch at 604-660-6060 or 1-800-555-3684.

#BCTech Summit - Youth Innovation Day

On March 15, 2017, the Government of BC and the BC Innovation Council will be hosting Youth Innovation Day at the #BCTECH Summit in Vancouver, BC. This full day event will offer secondary students in grades 10 to 12 across the province an opportunity to explore the wide range of education, training and career opportunities in BC's growing tech sector.

Who should attend Youth Innovation Day?

• Grades 10-12 secondary school students and their teachers from across BC.

How much does it cost?

- Attendance to Youth Innovation Day is **free** for school/class groups.
- Please contact youth@bctchsummit.ca for details.

What should students expect?

- Hear from inspirational speakers highlighting why a career in tech can change the world, including 25-year-old Simone Giertz, inventor and comedic Youtuber who will share why it's important to build useless things.
- Participate in a scavenger hunt using augmented reality on mobile devices to explore BC's latest innovation and technology in the Marketplace, Technology Showcase, Research Runway, Startup Square, and the Future Realities Room- presented by Microsoft.
- Learn about career opportunities in tech from leading post-secondary research institutions and innovative tech companies, and much more.

See Attachment 7 for more information about Youth Innovation Day, including the full schedule of activities, keynote speakers and a sample of organizations on-site at the #BCTECH Summit.

Space is limited.

For more information on Youth Innovation Day or to reserve your spot immediately, contact youth@bctechsummit.ca.

Kudos for Colleagues

Jennifer McCrea, Assistant Deputy Minister, Learning at the Ministry of Education would like to recognize the efforts and contributions of our colleagues in the field.

It is always inspiring to see colleagues acknowledged outside of the school system for their efforts and contributions.

Recently, Denise Augustine, District Principal of Aboriginal Programs in School District 79 (Cowichan Valley) was acknowledged by Indspire for her commitment to community service at the 2016 Guiding the Journey - Indigenous Educator Awards. Denise joined fifteen of her national colleagues in being recognized for "(being) exemplary in their innovation and dedication to helping First Nation, Inuit, and Métis children and youth succeed. They are creating lasting change in the communities they serve and enriching the field of Indigenous education through their contributions."

Debbie McPhee, in her role as Aboriginal Support Worker in School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay) started the program "Continuing the Journey with the Elders" seven years ago based out of Mount Baker Secondary School in Cranbrook. The program now has five Elders involved from the Ktunaxa and Métis Nations. The program was recently recognized by Reader's Digest with an award of \$10,000 as part of their Innovators in Education program. You can read the article here:

http://www.readersdigest.ca/features/heart/2016-canadian-innovators-in-education-award-winners/3/.

Congratulations to Denise, Debbie, and their teams of educators for making a difference in the lives of students and being innovators in Aboriginal Education.

Capital Delivery Branch - Staffing Changes

The Ministry's Capital Delivery Branch has undergone some recent staffing changes.

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Please refer to the Ministry's contact information page for an updated staff contact list for each school district:

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/resource-management/capital-planning/capital-division-contact-list.pdf

Recent Capital Asset Management System Training

The Ministry was pleased over 20 school district representatives were able to attend and participate in three days of Capital Asset Management System (CAMS) training recently held in Vancouver.

Under contract with the Ministry, VFA Inc. offers software solutions that assist in strategic facilities capital planning and management, and helps both school districts and the Ministry gather and leverage facility condition data for decision-making, funding requests, and planning purposes.

Public school systems face many unique challenges in managing and planning for their school facilities, with everyone under mandate to demonstrate equitable distribution of funds across school districts that force difficult trade-offs in decisions regarding maintenance and renewal of their facilities. Leveraging the power of this software, the recent CAMS training will help school districts plan the best assessment strategy for their needs.

Based on the positive feedback, the Ministry will try to coordinate another similar session for school districts in early 2017. In the interim, if you have any questions, please contact Carlo Vijandre at Carlo.Vijandre@gov.bc.ca.

Capital Asset Management Framework

To help in capital planning and procurement processes, the Ministry would like to remind School Districts to utilize the resources in the Capital Asset Management Framework (CAMF). CAMF describes government's objectives and policies for planning and managing publicly-funded capital assets such as schools, hospitals, and buses.

CAMF consists of three integrated components:

- The Overview describes the objectives, principles and key elements of the Framework. It highlights
 the requirement to examine a variety of options for obtaining and managing assets, and to choose
 options that provide the best value for taxpayers
 (http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/tbs/camf_overview.pdf);
- The Guidelines describe the province's minimum standards, policies and processes for managing capital assets (http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/tbs/camf_guidelines.pdf);
- The Tools provide practical resources, such as templates, sample documents, and technical guidelines. Links to tools are incorporated throughout the Guidelines document.
 - The checklist provides additional details on how to meet the province's minimum standards for acquiring capital assets that are constructed by public-sector agencies (http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/tbs/NEW%20-%20MERGED%20Capital%20procurement%20checklist%20FINAL %202007 12 11.pdf).
 - NEW Recommend Best Practices for Pre-Qualification for Selection of General Contractors and Professional Consulting Services provides additional details on government's expectations for the use of pre-qualification processes in capital procurement (http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/tbs/Best Practice for Pre%20Qualification.pdf).
 - NEW Recommended Best Practices for Administering Tenders with Privilege Clauses provides additional details on government's expectations for the use of privilege clauses in capital procurement
 (http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/tbs/Best%20Practice for Administering Tenders with Privilege Clauses.pdf).
 - NEW Guidance for the Release of Information &/or Documents Related to Competitive Procurement Opportunities
 (http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/tbs/Releasable%20Information%20FINAL%20September%2019%202016.pdf).

BC – Quebec Exchange Program for Grade 10 & 11 French Immersion & Francophone Students 2017/2018

The BC-Quebec Exchange Program provides a unique opportunity for French Immersion and Francophone students in grades 10 and 11 to spend three months living in Quebec.

- In the fall, BC participants welcome one Quebec student each into their homes. For three months, the BC and Quebec students attend school and participate in local activities together.
- In late January, the BC students travel to Quebec, and spend three months there living with the Quebec students and their families, attending school, and experiencing Quebecois culture.

Airfare is covered by the Ministry of Education. There is no application fee and students earn 4 credits toward graduation by participating in this unforgettable experience.

Please forward this information to your district language coordinator, as well as the principal and French contact at high schools in your district that offer French Immersion.

Schools wishing to participate in 2017/18 must register with the Ministry by **December 15, 2016**.

To learn more about the BC – Quebec Exchange Program please visit http://www.gov.bc.ca/QuebecExchange.

Free Classroom Educational Resources - While Quantities Last!

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection and the Government of BC are working together to equip BC schools with new resources to address cyberbullying, healthy relationships and sexual consent. Through a grant from Civil Forfeiture Proceeds and funding from the Ministry of Education, education modules for grades 7 to 10 as well as activity books, available in English and French, are being offered free-of-charge to BC schools (while supplies last).

GRADE 7/8 EDUCATION MODULE

Created in response to emerging online risks and designed to address adults using technology to exploit children for a sexual purpose, self/peer exploitation (sexting or selfies) and cyberbullying, lessons include:

- Healthy Friendships
- Healthy Dating Relationships
- Boundaries and Personal Safety
- Responding to Unsafe Situations

GRADE 9/10 EDUCATION MODULE

Created to address the harmful impacts and the potential legal implications with youth engaged in sexual exploitation/violence, extreme bullying and the misuse of technology, lessons include:

- Influences on Teens' Ideas about Relationships
- Love vs. Control in Dating Relationships
- Canada's Sexual Consent Laws
- Cyberbullying and Harassment
- · Identifying When and How to Get Help

Promoting respect and dignity, empowering youth to challenge harmful behaviour and discussing the important role of close friends and bystanders will also be built into the module.

To ensure all schools have the opportunity to take advantage of this offer, quantities are limited to one copy of each module per school as well as one activity book for each student expected to be taught the lessons. School districts are encouraged to bulk order for their schools. Orders can be placed online at https://protectchildren.ca/app/en/order?action=list&tagid=35.

Updated Sip Smart BC Program Resources

The BC Pediatric Society, Ministry of Health, and Provincial Health Services Authority have been working together to update the nutrition content of the Sip Smart!BCTM program. The revisions are now

complete and the updated Sip Smart!BCTM program resources are now available on the BC Pediatric Society website at http://www.bcpeds.ca/Programs/sipsmart.aspx?MenuID=3347.

Sip Smart!BCTM is an educational program that helps teach students in grades 4, 5, and 6 about sugary drinks and healthy drink choices. The lessons in the Sip Smart!BCTM program also fit with a number of learning standards for the Physical and Health Education curriculum for grades 4, 5, and 6 and touch on other curriculum areas.

Please email us at <u>EDUC.Stakeholder.Engagement@gov.bc.ca</u> if you have any questions or if you have information you'd like to see in a future edition of this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Ramona Soares

Assistant Deputy Minister International Education, Independent Schools and Partner Relations Division Ministry of Education

To: "Bertrand Dupain"

Subject: Activités collaboratives avec la France
Date: Monday, February 6, 2017 4:41:00 PM

Bonjour Monsieur Dupain,

Je vous écris, car nous offrons aux conseils scolaires qui ont décidé de mettre en place des activités collaboratives avec la France (suite à la signature d'un accord entre nos ministères) une bourse de 2 000 \$ pour les appuyer.

Cette bourse doit être destinée à financer des activités directement reliées à une collaboration avec la France, mais les conseils scolaires ont la possibilité de choisir quelles activités financer. Ces activités pourraient consister en :

- Un voyage en France pour rencontrer les équipes éducatives et les élèves sur place;
- Le remboursement des frais de libération d'enseignants pour qu'ils planifient des projets collaboratifs;
- Le remboursement des frais d'inscription et de voyage pour envoyer du personnel éducatif à la conférence de la BC Language Coordination Association à Kelowna en avril, durant laquelle des représentants des académies de Grenoble et de Nancy animeront un atelier sur les projets internationaux;
- Etc.

Pourriez-vous me dire si cette bourse vous intéresserait? Nous demandons aux conseils scolaires qui acceptent la bourse de nous fournir un rapport des activités qui auront eu lieu grâce à l'appui financier du ministère.

Merci,

Linda

Linda Beddouche

From: Beddouche, Linda EDUC:EX
To: "whyer@summer.com"

Cc: "broller-routley@summer.com"; "Beckingham, Allen"; Jermann, Luc EDUC:EX

Subject: Grant to Support Collaboration Activities with France

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:28:32 PM

Dear Wendy Hyer,

I am pleased to inform you that your school district has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support collaboration activities with France. This grant will be transferred to your school district on March 15, 2017.

The funds are to be used solely to support collaboration activities with France. Collaboration activities could include the following:

- Sharing information, expertise and practices related to education and language learning/teaching (organising or attending conferences and meetings, etc.);
- Piloting the implementation of exchange or visiting programs for educators and students;
- Encouraging partnerships between schools in order to promote intercultural dialogue and create engaging learning experiences for students (sister schools, distance collaborative projects, etc.).

In accordance with conditions placed on all government grants, your school district must:

- Use all grant funds only for the purpose outlined above.
- By July 31st, 2017, provide the Ministry with a report on actual use of the grant money, broken down by purpose, plus reporting on outcomes.
- Be aware that the Ministry will reclaim any portion of the grant should your school district not use the funds received for the purposes outlined in this letter.

Thank you for your commitment to French education!

Linda Beddouche

From: Beddouche, Linda EDUC:EX
To: "kelder@sd63.bc.ca"

Cc: <u>"jreid@sd63.bc.ca"; "Mark Fraser"; Jermann, Luc EDUC:EX</u>

Subject: Grant to Support Collaboration Activities with France

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:27:20 PM

Dear Keven Elder,

I am pleased to inform you that your school district has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support collaboration activities with France. This grant will be transferred to your school district on March 15, 2017.

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Thank you for your commitment to French education!

Linda Beddouche

To: Langstraat, Piet

Cc: "mwalsh@sd61.bc.ca"; "Burgers, Simon"; Jermann, Luc EDUC:EX

Subject: Grant to Support Collaboration Activities with France

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:26:14 PM

Dear Pieter Langstraat,

I am pleased to inform you that your school district has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support collaboration activities with France. This grant will be transferred to your school district on March 15, 2017.

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Thank you for your commitment to French education!

Linda Beddouche

From: <u>Beddouche, Linda EDUC:EX</u>

To: "dsloan@prn.bc.ca"

Cc: "kpobuda@prn.bc.ca"; "Stephen Petrucci"; Jermann, Luc EDUC:EX

Subject: Grant to Support Collaboration Activities with France

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:25:11 PM

Dear Dave Sloan,

I am pleased to inform you that your school district has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support collaboration activities with France. This grant will be transferred to your school district on March 15, 2017.

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Thank you for your commitment to French education!

Linda Beddouche

To: <u>Lisa McCullough</u>

Cc: "ssomji@sd48.bc.ca"; "Iody Nelson"; Jermann, Luc EDUC:EX
Subject: Grant to Support Collaboration Activities with France

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:24:08 PM

Hello Lisa,

I am pleased to inform you that your school district has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support collaboration activities with France. This grant will be transferred to your school district on March 15, 2017.

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Thank you for your commitment to French education!

Linda Beddouche

To: Gina Niccoli-Moen

Cc: "Russell.Horswill@sd41.bc.ca"; Wanda Mitchell; "Anne-Marie Bilton"; Ron Hall; Jermann, Luc EDUC:EX

Subject: Grant to Support Collaboration Activities with France

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:19:23 PM

Dear Gina Niccoli-Moen.

I am pleased to inform you that your school district has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support collaboration activities with France. This grant will be transferred to your school district on March 15, 2017.

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Thank you for your commitment to French education! Best regards,

Linda Beddouche

To: Gordon Stewart

Cc: "dgreen@sd35.bc.ca"; "Claire Guy"; Jermann, Luc EDUC:EX

Subject: Grant to Support Collaboration Activities with France

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:16:58 PM

Dear Gordon Stewart.

I am pleased to inform you that your school district has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support collaboration activities with France. This grant will be transferred to your school district on March 15, 2017.

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Thank you for your commitment to French education! Best regards,

Linda Beddouche

To: Kevin Kaardal

Cc: Larry Paul; Rhonda Ovelson; "Armelle Moran"; Jermann, Luc EDUC:EX

Subject: Grant to Support Collaboration Activities with France

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:15:42 PM

Dear Kevin Kaardal.

I am pleased to inform you that your school district has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support collaboration activities with France. This grant will be transferred to your school district on March 15, 2017.

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Thank you for your commitment to French education! Best regards,

Linda Beddouche

From: Beddouche, Linda EDUC:EX
To: "irogers@sd22.bc.ca"

Cc: "solson@sd22.bc.ca"; "Brendan Robertson"; Jermann, Luc EDUC:EX

Subject: Grant to Support Collaboration Activities with France

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:14:36 PM

Dear Joe Rogers,

I am pleased to inform you that your school district has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support collaboration activities with France. This grant will be transferred to your school district on March 15, 2017.

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Thank you for your commitment to French education! Best regards,

Linda Beddouche

To: "jjones@sd8.bc.ca"

Cc: "kmorris@sd8.bc.ca"; Lorri Fehr; Jermann, Luc EDUC:EX

Subject: Grant to Support Collaboration Activities with France

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:13:03 PM

Dear Jeff Jones.

I am pleased to inform you that your school district has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support collaboration activities with France. This grant will be transferred to your school district on March 15, 2017.

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- Encouraging partnerships between schools in order to promote intercultural dialogue and create engaging learning experiences for students (sister schools, distance collaborative projects, etc.).

A grant of this nature requires that the Ministry outline its standard expectations in terms of accountability and acknowledgement.

In accordance with conditions placed on all government grants, your school district must:

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- By July 31st, 2017, provide the Ministry with a report on actual use of the grant money, broken down by purpose, plus reporting on outcomes.
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Thank you for your commitment to French education! Best regards,

Linda Beddouche

To: Lynn Hauptman

Cc: XT:Norum, Robert FIN:IN; "Diane Casault"; Jermann, Luc EDUC:EX

Subject: Grant to Support Collaboration Activities with France

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:10:48 PM

Dear Lynn Hauptman,

I am pleased to inform you that your school district has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support collaboration activities with France. This grant will be transferred to your school district on March 15, 2017.

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- Use all grant funds only for the purpose outlined above.
- By July 31st, 2017, provide the Ministry with a report on actual use of the grant money, broken down by purpose, plus reporting on outcomes.
- Be aware that the Ministry will reclaim any portion of the grant should your school district not use the funds received for the purposes outlined in this letter.

Thank you for your commitment to French education! Best regards,

Linda Beddouche



BC - Quebec Exchange Program School Participation Request Form

To participate, each school must nominate a sponsor teacher who will coordinate the program within the school. Each sponsor teacher can be responsible for up to five participating students. Sponsor teachers are entitled to up to five days of release time covered by the Ministry, depending on the number of participating students at the school.

Interested students need not be identified before submitting the School Participation Request Form. There is no penalty if a school signs up but is unable to recruit student participants. Student application does not guarantee participation.

Please review the information on the next page before signing.

School District Nu	ımber:	
School Name:		
Grades taught at	your school:	
(grade 10 or 11), case at your scho	both schools must submit this form,	e application year (grade 9 or 10) and the exchange year and each must nominate a sponsor teacher. If this is the ool that students will be moving to or from here:
Sponsor teacher r	name:	
Sponsor teacher's	s email address:	
Sponsor teacher's	daytime phone number during the	school year:
Sponsor teacher's	s phone number over the summer: _	
Principal:		
Approved:		
Principal's Sign	nature (electronic signature preferre	ed, if possible)
Mu	ist be submitted by December 15 th c	of the year before the exchange year.
	Please return to: EDUC.Fre	nch.Programs@gov.bc.ca
	Attn: Jenn Neilson, Pro	
	French Education Branch	, Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	French Education Branch	EDUC.French.Education@gov.bc.ca

Learning Division

www.gov.bc.ca/education/frenchprograms

250-896-4301



Information for schools about the BC – Quebec Exchange Program

BC students cannot participate in this program without the approval of the school administration

- the school must fill out the School Participation Request Form.
- the principal must sign each student's Application Form and Interview Questionnaire.

A school that chooses to participate in this program agrees to:

- appoint a member of the teaching staff who speaks French fluently to be the sponsor teacher;
- accept Quebec exchange students within the school for the three-month exchange period and waive any fees and other school costs for these students;
- collect personal information by means of the application process prescribed by the Ministry;
- form a committee responsible for evaluating the applications, selecting candidates and forwarding the recommendations to the Ministry;
- destroy the personal information concerning the applicants and the members of their family at the end of the school year;
- provide counselling or assistance should the Quebec student require help adjusting to the new school.

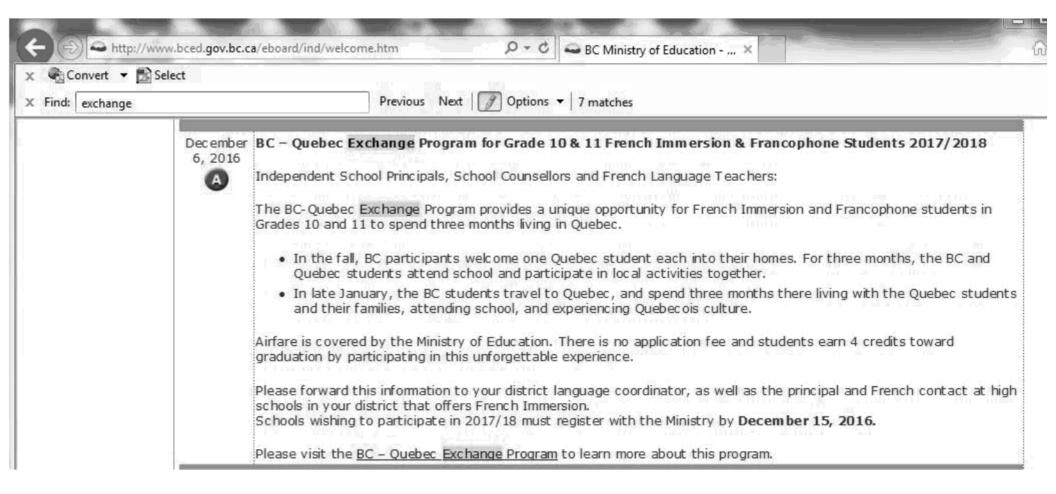
A teacher appointed as a sponsor teacher agrees to:

- advise students about the program;
- accept completed application forms from students;
- conduct interviews with students and in-home interviews with the parents of student applicants;
- rank the students' applications and send them to the Ministry of Education by Feb. 28;
- assist Quebec students with course selection;
- ensure the assessment report is completed by the BC teachers and that the Quebec students receive a copy before they return home in December;
- assist the BC students and their families with academic planning for the exchange year;
- conduct an evaluation (by phone) when the BC student is in Québec;
- contribute to the successful administration of the program, as needed.

For more information about the program, please visit www.gov.bc.ca/quebecexchange

Ministry of Education

French Education Branch Learning Division EDUC.French.Education@gov.bc.ca www.gov.bc.ca/education/frenchprograms 250-896-4301





November 8, 2017

Ref: 197239

Grant Sheppard, Director of Independent Schools and International Education **Email:** Grant.Sheppard@gov.bc.ca

Dear International Education Partners:

I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Education *Student and Teacher Exchange and Mobility Awards* are available for 2017-18. **The application window is now open with a November 30, 2017 deadline for submissions.**

These awards support students and teachers to go abroad gaining intercultural skills and strengthening foreign partnerships. British Columbia students and teachers return with experiences valuable for personal, educational and professional growth, as well as contributing to a more welcoming environment for international students coming to the province.

The first two administrations of the award in 2015/16 and 2016/17 were highly successful supporting over 530 British Columbia students and 14 British Columbia teachers on exchange and mobility activities. Eligible destinations included China and Japan in 2015/16, and China, Japan, France and Italy in 2016/17.

For 2017/18, student mobility awards will have a value of between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Teacher mobility awards will have a value of \$5,000.

Additional eligible destinations have been added for 2017/18 and now include China, Colombia, France, Italy, Japan, and Spain. There is also the possibility of application for mobility activities to destinations under the category of 'Other' countries that are not traditionally strong sources of international students or of foreign partnerships for British Columbia school districts and independent schools.

We encourage you to submit applications for multiple destinations, provided the mobility activities meet the criteria for eligibility.

For more information, including the 2017/18 application forms, please visit the Ministry of Education scholarships webpage at the following web address:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/international-education/scholarships-awards

.../2

If you have questions regarding the *Student and Teacher Exchange and Mobility Awards*, or other international education scholarship competitions, please contact Dwayne Cover, Provincial Lead for K-12 International Education, at Dwayne.Cover@gov.bc.ca.

I look forward to our continued collaboration, strengthening International Education in the province and supporting the development of intercultural skills for British Columbia students and teachers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Grant Sheppard

Director

Independent Schools and International Education

Ministry of Education

Grant Shippard