

# Social and Environmental Justice Updates and Opportunities - October 2020

## BCTF Endorsements

Through its decision-making bodies, the Executive Committee and the Representative Assembly, the BCTF recently decided to endorse two social justice campaigns.

### 1. Green New Deal

Delegates to the Spring Representative Assembly passed the following recommendation:

That the Federation endorse the Green New Deal and:

1. work with other unions and social justice organizations to advance the Green New Deal policy and vision and
2. engage members in discussions about the Green New Deal through zone meetings, workshops, Summer Leadership Conference, and *Teacher* magazine.

To learn about the Green New Deal, visit the following sites:

- Pact for a Green New Deal website: <https://greennewdealcanada.ca/>
- Article in the May 2020 *Teacher* Magazine: [www.bctf.ca/publications/NewsMagArticle.aspx?id=56826](http://www.bctf.ca/publications/NewsMagArticle.aspx?id=56826)

### 2. Just Recovery for all

At their June 19–20 meeting, the BCTF Executive Committee passed the following motion:

*That the Federation endorse the principles of Just Recovery for All.*

These principles include:

- Put people's health first, no exceptions.
- Provide economic relief directly to the people.
- Help our workers and communities, not corporate executives.
- Create resilience for future crises.
- Build solidarity and community across borders – do not empower authoritarians.

To learn more, visit the 350.org Principles for a Just Recovery webpage <https://350.org/just-recovery/>.

## Social Justice Grants

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BCTF social justice grants will have a new set of deadlines for the current school year, allowing time for you to plan. Please consider the very real possibility of continued disruptions to the regular school year when deciding on your project, as not all projects will be viable depending on the health advice from provincial medical experts. The Committee for Action on Social Justice grants committee and BCTF Full-Time Table Officers will take into consideration health orders and concerns when deciding whether to approve applications. We encourage you to consider projects that address the impacts of pandemic on social justice issues.

### Ed May Social Responsibility Education Fund

[Ed May Social Responsibility Education Fund](#)

This fund promotes socially responsible teaching in inclusive, safe, and healthy schools by providing money to assist teachers in developing and implementing violence-prevention, antiracist, disability justice, multicultural, gender-equity, global, environmental justice, or peace resources.

**Application deadline: November 21, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.**

**Any grants not dispersed at this time will be available up to April 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

### **Provincial Social Justice Initiatives Grant**

#### Provincial Social Justice Initiatives Grant

This grant is awarded on a yearly basis to support social justice projects that have an ongoing and systemic impact on teachers and students across the province and in their community. Projects may involve local community groups but should not be donations to these groups. The total amount of grant funds awarded in each school year is a maximum of \$5,000. This amount may be awarded to one applicant or divided between two applicants.

**Application deadline: December 2, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.**

To learn about BCTF Social Justice grants, visit the Social Justice Grants and Funds webpage.

[bctf.ca/SocialJusticeGrants.aspx](http://bctf.ca/SocialJusticeGrants.aspx)

## **New Equity and Inclusion Initiatives**

At the BCTF Spring Representative Assembly, BCTF members demonstrated their commitment to making spaces more welcoming and inclusive for members from equity seeking groups by approving funding for several new initiatives at the provincial and local level.

### **1. Funding for local equity audits**

#### ○ **The new Equity and Inclusion Grant**

Grants of \$6,000 to support locals in examining local processes and practices, learning more about the experience of members from equity-seeking groups, and developing a program to enhance equity and inclusion in member engagement, leadership, and the local's work.

**Application forms: Grants to Locals page in the Local Presidents' section of the Member Portal.**  
**Applications received after November 1 will be considered subject to available funds.**

### **2. Funding for Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour (IBPOC) member engagement and capacity building**

#### ○ **Union mentorship plan grants**

Grants are available to locals to develop a union mentorship plan for members who identify as racialized or persons of colour and/or for members who identify as Aboriginal.

**Application forms: Grants to Locals page in the Local Presidents' section of the Member Portal.**  
**Applications received after November 1 will be considered subject to available funds.**

#### ○ **Summer Conference attendance**

The BCTF will fund participation of up to 10 additional participants who identify as members in their first five years of teaching and up to 10 additional participants who identify as members who are racialized, persons of colour, or Aboriginal.

**More information about the application process will be provided closer to the date of the event.**

#### ○ **BCTF Executive Committee meetings**

Each local and sublocal may send up to two members to attend an in-person Executive Committee meeting as observers on the basis that at least one is a member in their first five years of teaching and at least one member identifies as a member of an equity-seeking group. **Ask your Local President about the process for applying for this opportunity.**

- **Federation Leadership Institute**

The BCTF will fund up to six members who identify as IBPOC and who would not otherwise be attending the Federation Leadership Institute.

**More information about the application process will be provided closer to the date of the event.**

## Social Justice Resources

### 1. Social Justice Webpages

Explore the BCTF Social Justice webpages for the following lesson plans, posters, resources, and policies related to each of the 7 action groups: [www.bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx](http://www.bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx)

### 2. COVID-19 related social justice resources

The TeachBC webpages feature the following social justice resources related to the pandemic:

- [Racism and COVID-19](#)
- [Racism and COVID-19 -- Supporting IBPOC Teachers](#)
- [Supporting LGBTQ2S+ Youth during COVID-19](#)
- [Inclusive Education: Supporting Students with Special Needs during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Intimate Partner Violence and COVID-19](#)

### 3. Equity and Inclusion

BCTF policies, information, and resources  
[bctf.ca/EquityAndInclusion.aspx](http://bctf.ca/EquityAndInclusion.aspx)

### 4. Social Justice publications

- Social Justice Newsletter
  - Summer/Fall edition  
[bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=57802](http://bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=57802)
  - Past editions  
[bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=6352](http://bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=6352)
- Seeds of Social Justice:
  - October edition  
[bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/SocialJustice/Publications/Seeds/Seeds\\_October2020%20Spotlight%20on%20Peace%20and%20Global%20Education.pdf](http://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/SocialJustice/Publications/Seeds/Seeds_October2020%20Spotlight%20on%20Peace%20and%20Global%20Education.pdf)
  - Past editions  
[bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=39529](http://bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=39529)

## Social Justice Workshops

The BCTF is currently updating workshops for virtual delivery. Please provide adequate notice when requesting workshops to allow time for these updates to be made.

Learn more about social justice workshops and book one for a school based, local or regional professional development day by visiting the Social Justice Workshops listing. [bctf.ca/PD/workshops.aspx?id=233056](http://bctf.ca/PD/workshops.aspx?id=233056)

The following social justice workshops are currently available for virtual delivery:

- Advancing equity and inclusion in our schools and communities  
[www.bctf.ca/PD/WorkshopDetail.aspx?id=54617](http://www.bctf.ca/PD/WorkshopDetail.aspx?id=54617)
- Assertive Communication  
[www.bctf.ca/PD/WorkshopDetail.aspx?id=47771](http://www.bctf.ca/PD/WorkshopDetail.aspx?id=47771)
- Building a stronger union through a local equity audit (NEW)  
<https://www.bctf.ca/PD/WorkshopDetail.aspx?id=57810>
- How to be an antiracist in our schools, unions, and communities (NEW)  
[www.bctf.ca/PD/WorkshopDetail.aspx?id=57824](http://www.bctf.ca/PD/WorkshopDetail.aspx?id=57824)
- Role and function of a local social justice contact  
[www.bctf.ca/PD/WorkshopDetail.aspx?id=48779](http://www.bctf.ca/PD/WorkshopDetail.aspx?id=48779)
- Taking action on climate justice (NEW)  
[www.bctf.ca/PD/WorkshopDetail.aspx?id=57814](http://www.bctf.ca/PD/WorkshopDetail.aspx?id=57814)

## Social Justice Events

BCTF members will have the opportunity to participate in the following events this year. The dates of these events have not yet been determined.

Information on how to apply to participate in this year's issue sessions, Women's Institute, and Labour and Climate Round Table will be posted on the Opportunities for Members page of the BCTF website: [www.bctf.ca/OpportunitiesforMembers.aspx](http://www.bctf.ca/OpportunitiesforMembers.aspx).

Look for notice of these postings in future editions of the *BCTF News and Seeds of Social Justice*.

### 1. Regional Social Justice Conferences

Up to four regional social justice conferences will be offered this year, using funding from the Regional Social Justice Conference grant. See Handout 2 for information on applying for this grant. Information on social justice regional conferences will be posted on the Social Justice conferences webpage, at [bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=15120](http://bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=15120).

### 2. Issue Session on Racism

This year the BCTF will host its third annual Issue Session on Racism. BCTF members who identify as persons of colour can apply to participate. While the goals of this year's issue session have not yet been set, past goals have included bringing members together to consider:

- a. the impacts of racism in the workplace, in all areas of the province
- b. possible new strategies to present to the employer and/or government to address concerns about racism in the workplace

c. ways of informing members about making use of current avenues to address concerns about racism in the workplace.

### **3. LGBTQ2S+ Issue Session**

Funding for the first annual LGBTQ2S+ Issue Session was approved at the Spring Representative Assembly. While this event is in the planning stages, its structure will likely resemble that of the Issue Sessions on Racism.

### **4. Women's Institute**

The BCTF will host its fourth annual Women's Institute this year. In the past, each local has been invited to send one member who identifies as a women and additional spaces have been provided for women from equity seeking groups. While planning is not yet underway for this year's event, the objectives of last year's institute included the following:

- Create an opportunity for members who identify as women to share their experiences, build community, and learn new leadership skills and strategies together.
- Support and inspire women's leadership in the workplace, the union, and the broader community.
- Deepen the understanding of women's issues, feminist analyses, intersectionality, and effective collective organizing.
- Celebrate the contributions of women in the union, the profession, and the community.
- Gather feedback from the participants' lived experiences as to the opportunities for, and challenges to, participation at the school, local, and community levels.

### **5. Labour and Climate Justice Roundtable**

The BCTF is a member of Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (TUED). Delegates to the Spring 2020 Representative Assembly approved funding for the BCTF to collaborate with other BC TUED members to host a Labour and Climate Justice Roundtable. Ten BCTF members will be funded to attend this event.

Members of the Environmental Justice Action Group will begin planning for this event at the October 29–31 meeting of the Committee for Action on Social Justice.