

June 30, 2021

The Last Issue of Dispatch

We finish off this challenging year with this Dispatch issue that includes useful information for TTOCs who are reeling after surviving this pandemic year. Precarious employment, vaccination schedules, access to PPE, and financial support are just a few of the issues that TTOCs have faced this year.

We don't know what September will look like in our schools, but we are hopeful that we will begin to transition to a more "normal" looking year for TTOCs.

This will be the last issue of Dispatch. The new BCTF website will provide the TTOC Advisory Committee with a venue to communicate with TTOC contacts, and TTOCs in general, in a more time-efficient and engaging way. Watch for the launch of the new website in September.



Financial Help

The federal and provincial governments have both offered financial aid programs that benefit TTOCs, however, the programs can be difficult to navigate.

EI and Income Support Benefits: Information for TTOCs

The Government of Canada implemented new EI and income support programs on September 27, 2020, that run until September 25, 2021, which you may be eligible for. The new income support benefits opened October 12, 2020, and provide compensation retroactive to September 27, 2020. For a full list of eligibility criteria and other questions related to the programs, please consult the source documents.

Benefit	Eligibility criteria	Duration	Amount	Source:
<u>EI regular benefits*</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. you have been without work and without pay for at least seven consecutive days in the last 52 weeks 2. did not voluntarily quit your job 3. 120 insured hours (equivalent of 13.2 days of teaching) 4. if you received the CERB, the 52-week period to accumulate insured hours will be extended 	At least 26 weeks up to 45 weeks	at least \$500 per week before taxes up \$595 a week	Source

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. ready, willing, and capable of working each day 6. actively looking for work 			
El sickness benefits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. unable to work for medical reasons 2. regular weekly earnings from work have decreased by more than 40% for at least one week 3. 120 insured hours 4. if you received the CERB, the 52-week period to accumulate insured hours will be extended 5. the need to get a medical certificate showing that you're unable to work for medical reasons has been temporarily waived 	Up to 15 weeks	at least \$500 per week before taxes up to \$595 a week	Source
Canada Recovery Benefit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. you were not working for reasons related to COVID-19 or you had a 50% reduction in your average weekly income compared to the previous year due to COVID-19 2. not eligible for EI benefits or in receipt of another benefit such as WCB or short-term disability (SIP) 3. did not voluntarily quit your job unless it was reasonable to do so 4. you are seeking work and have not turned down reasonable work opportunities during your benefit period 	Up to 38 weeks	\$500 per week before taxes	Source
Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. unable to work at least 50% of your scheduled work week because you must care for a child under 12 years old or a family member who needs supervised care** 2. not eligible for EI benefits or in receipt of another benefit such as WCB or short-term disability (SIP) 	Up to 38 weeks	\$500 per week before taxes	Source
Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit***	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. unable to work at least 50% of your scheduled work week because you're sick or need to self-isolate due to COVID-19, or have an underlying health condition that puts you at greater risk of getting COVID-19 2. not eligible for EI benefits or in receipt of another benefit such as WCB or short-term disability (SIP) 	Up to 4 weeks	\$500 per week before taxes	Source

**If you received the CERB through Service Canada:* In most cases, you do not need to apply for EI benefits. After you receive your last CERB payment, continue completing job reports. We'll automatically review your file and your ROE, then start a claim for EI regular benefits if you qualify. If you don't qualify, you'll be notified by mail. *If you received the CERB through the Canada Revenue Agency:* You can apply after the end of your last CERB eligibility period through Service Canada.

****This applies if their school, regular program, or facility is closed or unavailable to them due to COVID-19, or because they're sick, self-isolating, or at risk of serious health complications due to COVID-19.**

*****If you have been diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus after possible exposure in the work environment, please file a claim for compensation with WorkSafeBC (WCB) by calling Teleclaim service: 1-888-WORKERS.**

To find out more about accessing Employment Insurance for the summer months, you may want to view the [BCTF EI Seminar](#).

Professional Development for TTOCs

Locals can book the **New Teachers three-part workshop** as an additional (5th) SURT every year. TTOC contacts should talk to their Local President before booking this workshop, as it requires the use of the local's SURT grant to release participants for the day.



New Teachers History and Relationships. This component of the New Teachers SURT will introduce new members to their union. The topics covered include the structure of the BCTF and a brief history of the Federation. Participants will also discuss the importance of professional relationships, including the BCTF Code of Ethics, professional boundary issues, and the importance of the teacher/parent relationship.

New Teachers Myth Busters. New teachers are often unaware of the importance of our collective agreement and their rights and responsibilities as public-school teachers in BC. In this workshop, participants will be introduced to the collective agreement and discuss the sections most relevant to them. The workshop emphasizes the importance of the local and the role that the Local President plays in upholding the provisions of the collective agreement. This workshop also introduces participants to the rights and responsibilities that teachers have when it comes to health and safety.

New Teachers Professional Learning. BCTF members are fiercely protective of their rights to professional autonomy when it comes to their professional learning and pedagogical decisions. This component of the New Teachers workshop delves into professional autonomy by examining the Professional Development Lens and the differences between professional development and in-service, particularly as it relates to curriculum implementation. Participants will also become familiar with the services and supports offered by the BCTF, including the 32 Provincial Specialist Associations, the workshops program, and other PD opportunities.

SuperTeach!



Dear SuperTeach,

I'm not sure what my options are. I've been TTOC-ing in the one school district for five years now and have built up some experience credit here. However, I would really like to make the move to another district that is closer to where I am now living. How can I find out what it is like to TTOC in that district? Would I have the same working conditions there? Are there any differences in the collective agreements for TTOCs?

I'm so confused.

*Sincerely,
MOVER (my options vary every year)*

Dear MOVER,

This is a very complex question as each local has their own collective agreement with the school district, so some provisions will be very different from district to district. Some of the notable differences will be regarding:

- salary grids
- the transfer of experience credits to another district, which determine your placement on the salary scale
- experience credit for teaching in other countries
- maternity leave provisions, including top-up
- extended health benefits.

For more information, refer to the attached document "Important information for members contemplating moving districts." Local collective agreements can be found on the BCTF Member Portal and on the [BCPSEA website](#).

Happy moving,

SuperTeach

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