



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

February 10, 2021

The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside

Minister of Education

PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Whiteside,

Subject: Timelier Response from Teacher Regulation Branch

At the October 24, 2020 meeting of the BCSTA Provincial Council, representing all 60 boards of education in our province, our members passed the following motion:

“That BCSTA advocate to the Ministry of Education to ensure that credential reviews by the Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) are completed on a timelier basis.”

It was once again acknowledged during our most recent Provincial Council meeting that current wait times contribute to recruitment and retention challenges across our province. It was noted that teachers wishing to relocate to B.C. are told they should apply up to a year in advance of when they desire to teach in B.C. This wait time is a deterrent for new, out of province teachers.

Rural and northern B.C. districts heavily rely on recruiting out of province, but it can take the TRB over a year to complete credential reviews for teachers in many cases. Furthermore, once the TRB process is complete, additional procedures continue with the Teacher Qualification Service (TQS), causing new hires to be paid at a base scale as they wait with retroactive pay back not guaranteed. Not only does this prove frustrating for the teachers and hamper recruitment, but the additional workload placed on district staff due to the delays is considerable.

This is a recurring conversation, and while changes have been made in the past, we see that it is largely a continuing issue and contributor to ongoing recruitment and retention concerns. Should the TRB be able to complete most credential reviews within three months, we would expect to see improvements in these areas.



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

Thank you for considering this request on behalf of our member boards of education and the students that they serve. We look forward to continuing this conversation and being a part of a solution to attract the finest talent available to teach in our province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Higginson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephanie Higginson

President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: P120209.7

CC: Deputy Minister of Education Scott MacDonald
BCSTA member boards of education