

MEMO TO: Local presidents
COPIES TO: Executive Committee, Administrative staff, D. Broome
FROM: Mike Lombardi
DATE: November 22, 2007
SUBJECT: BCTF Statement of Principle on Assessment

Action request of locals

Locals are requested to provide staff representatives with copies of the attached *BCTF Statement of Principle on Assessment* petition (Appendix 1). The staff representative is encouraged to have all teachers sign the statement. Signed statements should be collected by the local by January 31, 2008.

Decision of the Representative Assembly

The following resolution was adopted at the November 2-3, 2007, Representative Assembly: *That the BCTF work with locals to collect from all teachers, signed Statements of Principle on Assessment that express our professional belief in fair, effective, and reliable evaluation and our opposition to both the Foundation Skills Assessment and the proliferation of mandated standardized tests.*

This action is a component of the *Support for Teaching and Learning Action Plan* that was adopted by the RA. The BCTF Executive Committee also adopted the following guidelines for the collection of signatures of all teachers in opposition to the FSAs and to the proliferation of mandated tests:

- a. November 2007—Distribution of BCTF statement of opposition to the FSAs and the proliferation of the mandated tests and signature sheets to locals.
- b. November 2007–December 21, 2007—Locals develop action plans to have all teachers in their local sign the statement of opposition to the FSAs and the proliferation of the mandated standardized tests.
- c. January 31, 2008—Locals prepare count of teacher signatures and forward information to BCTF.
- d. February 2008—BCTF and local plans for publicizing the signature collection results.

Additional BCTF information on assessment and testing can be found in the *Testing, You Bet* BCTF brochure that was recently distributed to teachers. Also, information about the *Support Teaching and Learning Action Plan* can be found on the BCTF web site at: www.bctf.ca

Follow-up

Field staff are available to provide support to locals to support implementation of this aspect of the *Support for Teaching and Learning Action Plan*. Locals are reminded that the Executive Committee has approved two local grant programs to support the implementation of the action plan. Information about the grants are included as Appendix 2.

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MLL Statement of Principle on Assessment Nov 2007
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November 22, 2007

BCTF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE ON ASSESSMENT

We, the undersigned BC public school teachers, believe the primary purpose of assessment is to support and promote student learning. As teachers, we know it is important to use a variety of methods to assess student progress and meet student needs. Ongoing classroom assessment allows students to demonstrate what they are learning in a variety of ways and thereby informs teaching and learning. Teachers know that learning is a complex process and that students learn in different ways and at different rates. We also know that assessment is an important part of the learning cycle.

We are opposed to the proliferation of mandated district-wide and provincial testing, including the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) and provincial exams which takes time away from teaching and learning, and encourage misuses such as the Fraser Institute rankings of schools. Results from these tests do not provide the resources necessary to improve public education and do not enhance learning for students.

Name of school	
Name of local	

	Teacher name (please print)	Teacher signature
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