

## **The Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT): Implications for Canadian-Certified Teachers Wanting to Work in BC.**

On, October 29, 2009, the BC Government passed Bill 11, requiring full labour mobility between provinces and territories for all trades and professions, including teaching. This legislation supports the national Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), which was approved in December 2008.

The intention of the AIT is to ensure that persons working in the profession may move between jurisdictions without having to complete additional studies or exams. In order to implement the requirements of the AIT, the BC College of Teachers has, through Bylaw amendment, created a Basic certificate which may be issued to Canadian-certified teachers who do not meet all BC College of Teachers requirements for certification.

### Requirements

Registration is still required. Registration requirements for previously certified applicants from other jurisdictions are listed below:

- A completed application form
- Authorization for a Criminal Record Search
- A statement of professional standing from all previous jurisdictions, indicating that the certificate is current, valid, and in good standing.
- Transcripts for all post-secondary studies (high school graduation may also be required if your education was not completed in North America)
- Copies of birth certificate and proof of name change (if applicable)
- Immigration document (work authorization, permanent residency, citizenship) if applicable.
- An Assessment of Professional practice (form provided)
- Two Character References (form provided)
- Letters from previous employers verifying work experience
- \$280.00 fees for evaluation, certificate issue, and annual dues
- Proof of English/French proficiency *may* be requested

The necessary forms, along with detailed information about the above-listed documents and the application process, are provided in the [application package and guide](#).

### Frequently asked questions

#### **What is the Impact on Education in BC?**

We already have a labour mobility agreement in place. Most practicing teachers from other Canadian jurisdictions already qualify for certification in BC. For the few who do not, they may obtain a certificate under the grand-parenting provisions of the AIT.

### **What does this Mean for Canadian Applicants?**

There is no change in the application process. Teachers still need to provide all of the application documents, including the application form, transcripts, references, identity documents, criminal record search authorization, employment information, and fees.

### **Can a Canadian Applicant be Denied Certification?**

The College retains the right to deny certification to persons who do not meet the standards of fitness or do not “satisfy the council that the person is of good moral character and is otherwise fit and proper to be granted a certificate of qualification.” (Section 25, *Teaching Profession Act*) This usually relates to concerns about professional misconduct, conduct unbecoming of a member, and incompetence.

Teachers who hold certificates restricted to teaching in a certain subject or specialty will be individually assessed. Depending on the current regulations for certification in BC this may or may not result in certification.

The College may deny certification to persons who are not proficient in the language of instruction (either English or French).

The certificate held must qualify you to teach in the public school system of your province or territory.

The College may deny certification to persons who have not practiced the profession in the last ten years.

The AIT is applicable only when the person holds a current valid teaching credential in another Canadian jurisdiction. It does not apply to anyone who holds a credential that is cancelled, suspended, revoked, expired, or not valid for teaching in the public school for any reason.

### **Can a person who holds a current interim or conditional certificate from the BC College of Teachers request a Basic certificate rather than complete the course work originally required?**

Yes. If you choose you can request the Basic certificate. Please ask the province or territory where you hold a current, valid certificate to send us an official statement of professional standing. Once that statement of standing has been received and confirms you certificate we will issue the Basic certificate.

### **Can I still qualify for the Professional certificate if I have a Basic certificate?**

Yes. If you would like to qualify for the BC Professional certificate, you would need to complete the course work originally required of you. Once the course work is complete, write to us and request an upgrade to the Professional certificate, and have the university send us an official transcript confirming completion of the course work.

### **When will the Basic certificate be available?**

The BC College of Teachers will begin issuing the Basic certificate January 1, 2010. For those needing certification before that date, a Conditional certificate may be issued.