

Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility
Memorandum of Agreement
for
the Teaching Profession
between
Alberta
and
British Columbia



PREAMBLE

The parties enter into this Memorandum of Agreement for the Teaching Profession to comply with obligations under the BC/ Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to reconcile standards for teachers in the Parties' jurisdictions so that a teacher who is certificated in one may have his/her qualifications recognized in the other.

1. SCOPE

This agreement covers all teachers who have a valid teaching certificate issued as listed in Appendix A. It is understood that some of these certificate holders may have received their certificate under requirements other than those outlined in the Agreement. It is recognized that these individuals are qualified, experienced practitioners and are eligible for membership in all signatory jurisdictions provided they meet all other criteria subject to Article 2. below.

Individuals that are not covered under this Agreement will have their application for certification individually assessed by the receiving party.

2. TERMS OF RECOGNITION

Subject to Article 1. above, the Parties agree that a teacher certificated in one jurisdiction that is a Party to this Agreement must apply for certification in the other jurisdiction.

Certification will be granted when an applicant provides:

- a. a valid teaching certificate from a Party to this Agreement.
- b. a statement of professional standing from the current practice jurisdiction
- c. evidence of fit and proper person that is acceptable to the receiving party
- d. evidence of language proficiency as defined in this Agreement
- e. evidence of currency as required as defined in this Agreement
- f. evidence of identity as required by the receiving party
- g. evidence of the right to work in Canada
- h. a completed application form
- i. payment of applicable fees

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION

3.1 The parties agree that for the purpose of teacher certification, an acceptable program is one that includes:

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- a. A minimum of four years of post secondary education inclusive of an acceptable degree.
- b. An acceptable professional teacher education program consisting of at least 48 credits in pedagogy coursework including content related to teaching students with special needs and an acceptable practicum, or equivalent. The program must have resulted in certification or evidence of eligibility for certification by a certifying body in the jurisdiction where the teacher preparation program was completed.
- c. An understanding of the context of teaching in Canadian schools.
- d. 6 credits of English and/or French literature and composition or equivalent.
- e. Acceptable academic preparation:
Academic content knowledge requirements are linked to the pedagogy component of the teacher education program. Teachers with preparation in elementary pedagogy will be assessed in accordance with academic requirements for elementary teachers and teachers with preparation in secondary pedagogy will be assessed in accordance with academic requirements for secondary teachers, as set out below.

Elementary Teachers

- i) A minimum of 24 credits of academic coursework-
- ii) Composition of credits must provide a broad background relevant to the elementary curriculum including Canadian Studies (3 credits), mathematics (3 credits) and science (3 credits) or equivalent.

Secondary Teachers

A minimum of 24 credits of academic coursework in one teachable subject area, as listed on the Party's website that issued the certificate.

3.2 Language Proficiency

Applicants whose first language is not English or French will be required to demonstrate language proficiency as a requirement for initial certification by the parties, as defined in Appendix B.

3.3 Currency Requirements

An applicant must provide evidence of acceptable teaching experience or equivalent within the past ten years that includes:

- a. responsibility for the planning, delivery and evaluation of an instructional program in which the curriculum reflects the educational system of the Parties,
- or
- b. experience for which a teaching certificate of the Parties would be required.

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4. EQUIVALENCY

Each Party agrees that it will use the standards articulated in this Agreement. In doing so, each Party will have flexibility in how it assesses whether equivalence to standards has been met by an applicant.

5. ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The Parties acknowledge through the signing of this Agreement that it has been approved and that they are bound by the terms herein and shall

- a. not establish new standards or regulations that operate to restrict or impair labour mobility for the teaching profession;
- b. give notice to signatories to the Agreement when changes to certification requirements or changes to existing standards are being considered;
- c. agree that nothing in this Agreement shall be considered as having the effect of repealing, overriding or having power over any provision of the Parties' statutes related to the certification of teachers;
- d. acknowledge that personal information collected by the Parties is subject to the protection and access provisions of the freedom of information and protection of privacy legislation in their jurisdictions.
- e. initiate consultation with the Party, in the event of a disagreement between the Parties with respect to the interpretation or application of the Agreement, with a view to resolving the matter;
- f. agree that this Agreement is effective for the Parties April 1, 2008;
- g. ensure that the Agreement and the Parties' teacher certification requirements will be published on a website of each Party;
- h. provide 12 months notice prior to withdrawing from the Agreement;
- i. agree to review the Agreement annually.
- j. agree to amend this agreement, as required by consensus.

6. DEFINITIONS

Acceptable degree: a degree completed at a university that is a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada or other recognized post-secondary institution deemed equivalent.

Acceptable professional teacher education program: a program that leads to the certification of *teachers*, as defined in this agreement.

Acceptable Practicum: teaching practice of not less than 10 weeks (or 250 hours) in a setting that is supervised by a person in an *acceptable professional teacher education program* or who is recognized by the Parties to this Agreement.

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Credit: one hour of instruction per week throughout a 13-week semester. Also known as a semester hour credit.

Certificated: has received a teaching certificate. Also known as certified.

Fit and proper person: an individual of good character as defined by the *receiving party*. Determination of fit and proper may be based on Criminal Record checks, character references, teaching reports, statement of professional standing and other such documents.

Jurisdiction: Alberta or British Columbia

Labour mobility: the ability for *teachers* to access employment in their profession in jurisdictions that are Party to this agreement.

Parties: Alberta Education, BC College of Teachers, BC Ministry of Education

Receiving party: the jurisdiction signatory to this Agreement where a *teacher* has made an application for certification.

Statement of professional standing: a statement that is issued in response to a request for information regarding a *teacher's* certification status from the jurisdiction where the *teacher* is certificated. The *statement of professional standing* contains the name (including previous names), address, date of birth, registration number of the applicant for out-of-jurisdiction certification and an indication of current professional standing. The *statement of professional standing* may also provide a summary of academic qualifications, professional qualifications and certification history.

Teacher: a member of the teaching profession as defined by each of the respective Parties to the Agreement.

Teachable Subject Area: is a body of knowledge defined by a provincial curriculum within each Party's jurisdiction. For purposes of meeting this requirement, it is recognized that Social Studies is an integrated, multi-disciplinary school subject. Secondary social studies requires an understanding of a number of specific disciplines. Applicants should be able to demonstrate preparation in the content areas required for secondary social studies curriculum of the Parties. The emphasis is on broad preparation in the humanities and social sciences, within which history and geography are important components.

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APPENDIX A

Valid certificates issued by the jurisdictions that are Party to this Agreement are:

Alberta Education

Interim Professional
Permanent Professional

Independent Schools Branch of BC Ministry of Education

Interim Independent School Professional Certificate and
Permanent Independent School Professional Certificate

BC College of Teachers

Interim Standard Certificate
Permanent Standard Certificate
Non-expiring Standard Certificate
Interim Professional Certificate
Permanent Professional Certificate
Non-expiring Professional Certificate
Interim Standard Restricted Certificate*
Permanent Standard Restricted Certificate*
Interim Professional Restricted Certificate*
Non-expiring Professional Restricted Certificate*

* Restrictions permitted in the Bylaws and Policies of the BC College of Teachers are:

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| (a) Business Education | (m) Library Sciences |
| (b) Counselling Psychology | (n) Mandarin |
| (c) Dance | (o) Physical Education |
| (d) Drama | (p) Punjabi |
| (e) French as a Second Language | (q) Russian |
| (f) German | (r) Spanish |
| (g) Technology Education | (s) Special Education |
| (h) Italian | (t) Vocational Education |
| (i) Japanese | (u) Teaching in the French language only |
| (j) Korean | (v) Teaching in a Francophone Education Program only |
| (k) Junior Secondary Sciences/
Physical Education | |
| (l) Latin | |

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APPENDIX B

Acceptable scores for fulfilling the English language proficiency requirements are:

- a. a total score of 98 on the TOEFL-iBT with the following minimum subtest scores: 23 on Reading and Listening, 27 on Speaking and 25 on Writing
- b. an overall band score of 6.5 on the academic version of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), with no band below 6 and with a minimum of 7 on the Speaking and Writing bands.

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