

Applying for Your British Columbia Teacher's Certificate

If you hold a current, valid, unrestricted teaching certificate from another Canadian province or territory, you will likely qualify for a Professional Certificate under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

All teachers, administrators and superintendents employed in the province's kindergarten to grade 12 public school system must have a valid Ministry of Education Certificate of Qualification (COQ). This certificate also enables educators to work in all independent schools and First Nations schools in the province. You must have completed a teacher education program to apply for a COQ.

Application Process

1. Visit <http://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/Teacher/AppPackageFromBC.aspx>, the Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) website, for information on the application process.

Under the *Becoming a Teacher* tab there are different sections for teachers that completed their Teacher Education Program [in BC](#), [in Canada](#), or [outside of Canada](#). Be sure to check out the helpful how-to videos that take you through the application steps!

2. When you are ready to apply, you can click Your Account (<https://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/LoginInfo/YourAccountLogin.aspx>) at the top of the page.
3. From Your Account, register for a [Basic BCeID](#) login to gain access to the various application documents and information required as part of your application, which are listed and explained in the *Becoming a Teacher* tab.

Important Details

All of these documents must be submitted to the TRB to determine your eligibility for certification. In some circumstances, additional documentation may be required.

- *Application for a Teacher's Certificate of Qualification (COQ)*
- *Application fee*
- *Consent to a Criminal Record Check*
- *Statement(s) of Professional Standing*
- *Verification of Employment*
- *Assessment Form*
- *Official transcripts of all post-secondary studies*
- *Degree verification*
- *Secondary school graduation diploma*
- *Confidential Character Reference for Authorization to Teach in British Columbia forms*
- *Identification documents*
- *Language proficiency results*

You can check on the status of your application via Your Account (<https://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/LoginInfo/YourAccountLogin.aspx>).

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Labour Mobility in Canada

Under the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement*, teachers certified by a Canadian province or territory are recognized as qualified to teach by all other Canadian provinces and territories without having to complete any additional training, work experience, or assessments. There are just a few exceptions - all teachers must demonstrate the following before they can be issued a COQ:

- Language proficiency in English or French.
Evidence that they are a person of “good moral character” and are “otherwise fit and proper” to be issued a COQ in BC. This evidence is provided through various documents such as character reference forms, criminal record check authorizations, and teaching assessments.

Annual Fees in BC

Once you are eligible for certification, you will be notified by email to pay your annual practice fee. For the first year that you are a certified teacher, you pay a pro-rated fee based on when you become a certified teacher.

Certificates issued June 1 - November 30	\$80
Certificates issued December 1 - March 31	\$40
Certificates issued April 1 - May 31	\$120*
* Includes \$40 pro-rated fee for the remainder of the current school year plus the full \$80 annual fee for the following school year.	

Professional Certificates of Qualification are non-expiring, and are valid as long as the annual fee is paid every year by May 31. School boards and independent school authorities are required to deduct this annual fee from the pay of their employees. If you are not employed by a school board or independent school authority, you must pay the annual fee through Your Account page to keep your certificate valid.

Questions? Visit our FAQ section.

You can find answers to many of your questions by reviewing the *Frequently Asked Questions* section of our website by clicking on the FAQs link at the top of the [Teacher Regulation Branch](#) home page.



The screenshot shows the website interface for the BC Teacher Regulation Branch. The navigation bar at the top includes links for 'home', 'about us', 'newsroom', 'forms & publications', 'FAQs', 'applicants', 'certificate holders', 'your account', and 'employers'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Becoming a Teacher' (with sub-links for Overview, Certificates Issued, BC Graduates, Canadian Graduates, International Graduates, First Nations Language, and Independent School Certificate), 'Certificate Services', 'Standards', 'Teacher Education', and 'Professional Conduct'. A central message reads 'Welcome to the Teacher Regulation Branch' and provides information about the branch's role. A 'What's New' section on the right highlights the Spring 2018 issue of 'Learn' and BC Teachers' Council Elections. A red box highlights the 'your account' link in the navigation bar, and another red box highlights a notice for certificate holders regarding the annual practice fee.