

## BC Teachers' Federation



### Why No School Today?

...the facts about professional development days

**Sometimes school is in session for teachers but not for students. On those days, family routines and childcare plans change. Even though students are not in school, teachers are working—developing their skills to enhance student learning. Those days are devoted to professional development, PD.**

#### How Does My Child Benefit?

We all want the best programs, the most up-to-date teaching methods, and the best informed, inspired, teachers for our children. PD days help teachers stay current.

#### Why Do Teachers Need Professional Development?

Change is affecting all of us, in our families, our work, and our communities. As active learners, teachers use PD days to keep on top of changes that affect their work with students (new technology, new ideas about teaching and learning, and different community needs). Skilled, enthusiastic teachers are key to maintaining the quality of education.

#### What Do Teachers Do on PD Days?

Topics for PD come from the classroom experience of learning and teaching. Teachers decide individually and together the issues to address. They attend workshops and conferences, participate in mentoring programs, pursue self-directed professional development, and undertake other activities designed to enhance teaching and learning. They take their new skills back to their classrooms.

#### Why Can't Teachers Do PD on Their Own Time?

They can, and they do. Teachers spend many hours attending university, taking evening classes and weekend workshops, reading professional journals, and going to summer school. PD days allow individual teachers, teams of teachers, or whole school staffs, to address current issues. PD days are held throughout the year so that teachers can reflect on and deal with the emerging issues facing schools.

#### Do PD Days Shorten the School Year?

No. PD days were added to the school calendar in 1972 at the request of the teaching profession.

#### How Can I Participate in PD Days?

In some districts, parents and school support staff attend workshops and conferences. Some families plan activities or projects for their children on PD days, to take advantage of that time. Contact your local school for information about PD day programs.

#### Where Can I Get More Information about PD Days in My School District?

Your school should give you a schedule early in each term to help you plan. Some communities have special childcare programs for PD days. For details about the timing or content of PD days, ask your child's teacher, or contact your local teachers' union.

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