



BCTF

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Role and Function of BCTF Social Justice Representatives

The BCTF recognizes the Social Justice (SJ) Representative as a union leader and encourages locals to adopt and promote the following description of the role and function of SJ Representatives, recognizing that each school situation is unique and adjustments to the model may be necessary.

The BCTF will support SJ Representatives in their roles by:

1. Communicating to schools through the local SJ Representative on all matters related to social justice, its implementation in the classroom, and the culture of the school.
2. Providing a SURT package to locals for school SJ Representative training.

A. School level SJ Representative

At the school level, the SJ Representative has the most flexible role. It can be as simple as distributing information that is received from the BCTF and their local up to and including all of the items listed below. The full set of duties must fit the representative's abilities, experience, availability, and the needs of the school. The following are aspects of the role that a representative may undertake with the support of the BCTF and the local.

1. Organizer/leader:
 - a. Collaborates with staff members to identify social justice needs and establish goals each year.
 - b. Carries out other social justice duties and responsibilities within the school to meet the needs of teachers and students and the goals of the local social justice committee and the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice (CASJ).
 - c. Supports members in submitting Ed May Social Responsibility Fund applications.
 - d. Is elected annually.
2. Communicator:
 - a. Receives and distributes relevant social justice and BCTF information.
 - b. Attends staff meetings to report on school, local, BCTF, and community social justice actions and opportunities.
 - c. Attends local meetings of school-based social justice representatives to provide liaison between the local and school-based social justice activities.
 - d. Participates in social justice representative training.
3. Advocate:
 - a. Is familiar with and implements contract language, BCTF policies, and local policies related to social justice in the everyday life of the school.
 - b. Serves as a school advocate for all teachers in matters related to social justice and its implementation in the curriculum, classroom, and the culture of the school.

- c. Participates with other school-based social justice representatives in identifying appropriate new contract language and local, and BCTF policies for social justice.
- d. Works collegially with school union reps, PD reps, health and safety reps, and school committees.

B. Local level Social Justice Representative

1. Organizer/leader:

- a. Works with the local executive to encourage each school in the district to elect at least one school-based social justice representative.
- b. Works with local executive to ensure the role and function of the school-based social justice representative is included in local policies.
- c. Collaborates with school based social justice representatives to provide supports, identify local social justice needs and establish goals each year.
- d. Coordinates, with school based social justice contacts or the members of a local social justice committee to develop a local social justice plan based on the goals for each year, using the social justice lens as an analytical tool to aid in this process.
- e. Carries out other social justice duties and responsibilities within the local to meet the needs of teachers and students, and the goals of the local social justice committee and the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice.
- f. Supports members in applying for Ed May Social Responsibility Fund and Provincial Social Justice Initiatives Grants, and coordinates, and submits Local Social Justice Grant applications.
- g. Works with Local SJ Representatives within the zone to plan Regional Social Justice Conferences and apply for funding from the BCTF.
- h. Attends discrete social justice sessions at zone meetings and Summer Leadership Conference.
- e. Is elected annually.

2. Communicator:

- a. Receives and distributes relevant social justice and BCTF information to school based social justice representatives.
- b. Attends local executive and staff rep meetings, and AGMs to report on local, BCTF, and community social justice actions and opportunities.
- c. Facilitates local meetings of school-based social justice representatives to provide liaison between the local and school-based social justice activities.
- d. Coordinates social justice representative training.

3. Advocate:

- a. Is familiar with and implements contract language, BCTF policies, and local policies related to social justice in the everyday life of the district and local.
- b. Serves as a district advocate for all teachers in matters related to social justice and its implementation in the curriculum, policy, and culture of the school district.
- c. Coordinates school-based social justice representatives in identifying appropriate new contract language, and local, and BCTF policies for social justice.
- d. Works collegially with members of the local executive.

C. Provincial Level (CASJ) Social Justice representative

1. Organizer/leader:
 - a. Creates resources for teachers and locals on specific action group issues.
 - b. Provides input to the Executive Committee and advice to Social Justice contacts and potential applicants on criteria for social justice grants.
 - c. Assists locals and zones in developing social justice programs, projects, and events, particularly those that involve the concerns of the individual action groups.
 - d. Appointed by the BCTF Executive Committee, for up to two three-year terms.
2. Communicator:
 - a. Works on developing links with other unions, community groups, NGOs, and others on social justice issues.
 - b. Promotes and assists in the development of local, zonal, and provincial networks of teachers on action group issues.
 - c. Facilitates the social justice portion of BCTF zone meetings, summer conference, and the Provincial Social Justice conference.
3. Advocate:
 - a. Promotes safe, healthier, nurturing, respectful, and inclusive environments for all teachers, students, and families in which to live, work, and learn, where all diversity is honoured.
 - b. Advises the Executive Committee on social justice issues and BCTF social justice policy.