



January 2020

(The electronic version is available for download under Social Justice Publications at [bctf.ca](http://bctf.ca).)

Over the past several years, the BCTF has focused on increasing equity and inclusion within the Federation. This means creating spaces where all members feel welcome, have a voice, and see themselves represented in leadership. The [BCTF Statement of Equity](#) affirms this commitment. Additional policies can be found on the [Equity and Inclusion Policy page](#).

While policies are important, achieving the goal of equity involves taking the time to reflect, learn, and take action to overcome barriers to inclusion. To support this work, the BCTF has developed resources and provided training opportunities for members. More information is available on the BCTF Equity and Inclusion [Raising Awareness](#), [Tools](#), and [Delving Deeper](#) web pages.

Many BCTF members are working on increasing equity and inclusion within their locals. It is at the local level where members may first feel empowered to voice their concerns and take on leadership roles. For this to occur, we must be aware of existing barriers to inclusion in order to put in place the necessary supports, structures, and policies to overcome these barriers.

To further these goals, the BCTF offered workshops on developing local equity audits at the Summer Leadership Conference and Federation Leadership Institute. A full-day SURT on this topic is also being developed for locals. Visit the BCTF Equity and Inclusion web pages and explore this edition of *Seeds of Social Justice* to find additional resources and training opportunities.

# BCTF Social Justice Program Calendar of Events



## JAN

- 17: Raoul Wallenberg Day, credited with saving 100,000 Hungarian Jews during the Second World War.
- 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 20-24: No Name Calling Week
- 29: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia

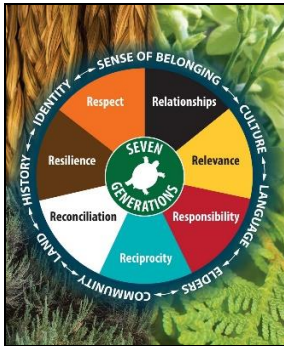


- **January 17** is **Raoul Wallenberg Day**, honouring the Swedish humanitarian credited with saving the lives of tens of thousands of Jewish people in Nazi-occupied Hungary. Teaching resources are available on the [International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation website](#).
- Lesson plans to celebrate **Martin Luther King Day** on **January 20** are available on the [National Education Association's web pages](#).
- **January 20–24** is **No Name-Calling Week**. Find resources and lesson plans on the [Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network \(GLSEN\) webpages](#).
- Consider supporting the call for a **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia**, on **January 29**, the date of the Islamophobic attack at the Quebec City mosque in 2017. The [Islamophobia resources document](#) on the BCTF's Additional Antiracism resources web page includes teaching resources and lesson plans that address Islamophobia.

## Resources



## Equity and Inclusion



- The [Aboriginal Lens—Education for Reconciliation](#) poster is a guide for educators who are committed to taking action on reconciliation. It provides a framework to help teachers assess policies and practices and address the needs of the community by challenging our current systems based on colonial, Eurocentric practices.
- Additional resources, including the [Privilege Power Wheel](#), [Watch your Language!](#), [Becoming an Ally](#), [Inclusive Meeting Self-Reflection](#), and [BCTF Statement of Equity](#) posters are available on the [BCTF Equity and Inclusion web pages](#).
- To request hard copies of posters and pamphlets, fill out the [Social Justice Resource Order Form](#) on the BCTF member portal. Check your staffroom for a copy of the [Social Justice Resources brochure](#), and the [Day of Pink](#) and revised [Peace and Global Education Begins with Me](#) posters, which will be mailed to every school later this month.

## Workshops



## Equity and Inclusion



- **Advancing Equity and Inclusion in Our Schools and Communities**  
Participants will leave this workshop with ideas they can implement towards an action plan to advance equity and inclusion in their communities. After exploring some of the challenges faced by members of equity-seeking groups, workshop participants will delve deeper into the barriers to equity and inclusion. Through an understanding of the factors that contribute to oppression of members of equity-seeking groups, participants will consider acts of allyship they can take to help overcome barriers to full inclusion.
- To book this and other free social justice workshops, including the introductory equity and inclusion workshop [Creating inclusive spaces](#), visit the BCTF [Social Justice Workshops web page](#).

## Opportunities for Members



The first of two **BCTF New Teachers' Conferences** takes place on Saturday, January 25, in Richmond, BC. The conference keynote speaker is Saylesh Wesley, a Sto:lo/Tsimshian teacher who works for the Chilliwack School District. Her passion as an educator is within the fields of Indigenous, LGBTQ, and Two-Spirit education. For more information and to register, visit the [New Teachers' web page](#), under For Teachers on the BCTF website.

Sooke, Saanich, and Victoria locals are hosting the **Tapestry-Climate Justice Conference**, on February 13 and 14 in Victoria. One of this year's two **Regional Social Justice Conferences** which are funded in part by **BCTF Regional Social Justice grants**, this conference will feature workshops specifically oriented to teaching about climate issues and organizing for climate justice. Seth Klein, founding director of the BC office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternative will give the keynote address, Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency: Lessons from World War Two.

The third annual Cross Border Conference, **Leaping into Action—Teachers Rise for Climate Justice**, will take place in Surrey on February 29. The focus of this conference is climate justice and how youth are leading and taking a stand. Classroom teachers from California, Oregon, Washington, and BC will develop strategies and create networks of mutual support for the necessary work in the areas of economic justice, antiracism, antipoverty, LGBTQ2S+, status of women, and peace and global education.

## Grants & Awards

Do you know a teacher who has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to social justice? The **Bob Rosen Social Justice Award** is presented at the BCTF Annual General Meeting to a member who has worked for systemic change on issues of social justice, including but not limited to antiracism, economic justice, peace and global education, environmental justice, the status of women, disability justice, and LBGTQ2S+ rights. More information is available on the [Opportunities for Members](#) page of the BCTF website. The deadline for applications is **January 31**.

Funds are still available for [Local Social Justice Grants](#) and the [Ed May Social Responsibility Fund](#). Visit the [Social Justice Grants and Funds web page](#) for more information, to find examples of past projects, and to download application forms.

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