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## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 2008-09 REPORT**

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The VSTA Professional Development Committee has had another successful year working to support school-wide and individual teacher driven Pro-D. School Pro-D Chairs met throughout the year to share ideas and resources, problem solve, and do long range planning. The Committee addressed important issues such as school Pro-D planning, Self-Directed Pro-D planning, funding, and meeting the Pro-D needs of school staff. Areas of focus included encouraging and supporting teachers with Self-Directed Pro-D planning and how to handle Administrative intrusions.

Funding was important area of focus. Pro-D Chairs discussed various policies and uses for the Professional and Staff Development fund. The Committee addressed issues such as using Pro-D funds to pay for travel expenses, TTOC's, as well as supporting department requests to use these funds for group Pro-D.

Another area of focus was to make Pro-D information more accessible for teachers. One way this was accomplished was by updating the Pro-D page on the VSTA web site. The Pro-D page now has current information about upcoming Pro-D events, along with overviews and a history of Pro-D days in BC. The district-wide Pro-D calendar, common Pro-D days, ideas and suggestions for useful Pro-D are also available, along with the VSTA Guidelines for Self-Directed Pro-D, and the VTF/VSB Joint Statement on Self-Directed Pro-D. There is also funding information, discussion of professional autonomy, and links to useful sites such as the BCTF on-line Pro-D website.

At the Newer Teacher's Reception held in January of this year, new teachers received a packet outlining Professional Development, how to access funds and utilize school-wide and self-directed Pro-D.

At the Joint Planning session held March 3, 2009, the Pro-D Committee worked with administrators to determine the common days for 2009-2010. It was decided that October 23, 2009, and February 15, 2010 would be the two common Pro-D days. These will be Day 0 in the district calendar. Schools also began planning for the 2009-2010 year with several schools, including Templeton, Britannia, and Van Tech, planning a joint Pro-D day together in December 09.

Although the process of revising Section A of the VTF/VSB Handbook with the VSB and VESTA began at the end of last year, little progress was made this year. However, as these handbooks serve as guidelines and are important for all parties to review, hopefully the process will continue next year. Another goal for next year would be to encourage all schools to attend the committee meetings on a regular basis, as we continue to support teacher-led professional development.

The VSTA Pro-D Committee continues to work hard, advocating on behalf of teachers, and supporting the important work of school Pro-D committees.

Brin MacIntyre, Chairperson  
VSTA Pro-D Committee