

MEMO TO: Local Presidents and Local Representatives  
COPIES TO: Executive Committee, PIAC, PSAC, Administrative Staff  
FROM: Irene Lanzinger  
DATE: May 4, 2009  
**SUBJECT: Lesson Aids**

I am writing to inform you of a decision of the Executive Committee to discontinue the Lesson Aids Service, effective June 30, 2009.

The decision was made following a process of investigation and consultation which I will outline for your information.

1. Last fall, staff in PSID prepared a report on the current status of our collection in Lesson Aids and other aspects of the service. The report was requested because of changes taking place with the manner in which teachers access curriculum and curriculum related materials. Major findings included:
  - a. Lesson Aids has moved away from its original mandate to offer teachers curriculum aids developed by teachers. Many of the titles offered through Lesson Aids are commercially produced materials.
  - b. There is no standard process for evaluating and selecting lesson aids to be sold by the service, however, items sold by the service are done so under the name of the BCTF.
  - c. The total net cost of the service including the space used in the building exceeds a quarter of a million dollars.
  - d. Other teacher organizations have moved to online curriculum exchanges.
2. Additional analysis of the service determined that there is a disconnect between what we offer through the service and a fit with current curriculum. The BCTF appears to have become more of a clearing house for privately produced teaching materials rather than a repository of current teacher developed lesson aids.
3. PSA Council was consulted on the future of the service and supported discontinuation with the understanding that the Federation move to an online type of service, supported by PSAs.
4. The Federation served Organizational Change notice to the in-building unions regarding the review of the service and also the possibility of discontinuing the service.

The Executive Committee was faced with engendering additional costs to make the existing service more current and effective or discontinuing the service with the prospect of initiating a more

technologically appropriate alternative in the near future. The BCTF Executive Committee has approved a capital technology project for next year that includes a component that would facilitate the establishment of member networks on specific topics. This will allow the Federation to provide an electronic service to members to share teacher-produced materials. PSA Council and PIAC will be consulted through the development of this new service.

In the meantime, we are implementing a plan that will have the current Lesson Aids Service discontinued by June 30, 2009.

IL:do/tfe