

To assure alignment with the Canadian Free Trade Agreement that came into effect on July 1, 2017, the Director of Certification is no longer issuing Basic Certificates. Certificate holders currently holding a Basic Certificate of Qualification issued under the Agreement on Internal Trade are now recognized as meeting the requirements for the BC Professional Certificate of Qualification.

**Q1. If I am a holder of current Basic Certificate of Qualification, what does this mean for me?**

A. If the records at the Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) show that a certificate holder currently holds a Basic Certificate of Qualification, the Director of Certification will issue a Professional Certificate of Qualification, and it will be mailed to the certificate holder. There will be no additional cost to the certificate holder.

**Q2. If I have been required to complete coursework to upgrade to a Professional Certificate, do I still need to complete the coursework?**

A. No. Additional coursework is no longer required.

**Q3. When can I expect to receive my new Professional Certificate?**

A. Certificates will be mailed out during the last week of July 2017 to certificate holders whose 2017-2018 annual fees have been paid.

**Q4. Will the Online Registry show that I hold a Professional Certificate?**

A. Yes. If your annual practice fee is paid, the Online Registry will show that you hold a Professional Certificate.

**Q5. Will my employer be told about this change?**

A. Yes. A notice about the change will be shared with BC school boards, independent school authorities and offshore schools.

**Q6. Will the Teacher Qualification Service (TQS) be notified?**

A. Yes. A notice about the change will be shared with TQS.

*July 2017*