

ATA C2 update Oct 28, 2013

C2 refers to Part C, clause 2 in the provincial Framework agreement between the teachers and Alberta government. Part C in the settlement addresses teacher workload.

C1 speaks to the internal review of the government to see which Ab. Ed. tasks can be eliminated or modified to reduce teacher workload. Ab. Ed. has already eliminated 25 hours of instruction per course, simplified the process for exemption from diploma exams, eliminated the IEPT tool, minimized the IPP report, and simplified the PUFF applications.

C2 addresses teacher workload concerns as it applies to school jurisdictions and school site-based initiated tasks. A committee of teachers, Central office staff, trustees, and an Alberta facilitator has been formed to jointly look to ways to reduce teacher workload and improve teacher efficacy. The committee consists of Bart Heine, Ryan Peebles, Lisa Crowshoe, Justin Zoeteman, Darryl Seguin, Kathy Olmsted, David Driscoll, Martha Radcliffe, Jim Rubuliak (the Alberta Education facilitator), and myself.

During our first meeting, the terms of reference were agreed upon, there was a dialogue on the meaning of 'teacher efficacy'. It was agreed that teacher efficacy involves both effective and efficient practices and thus the LRSD definition is "I can support student learning because I have the capacity, confidence and autonomy to do so."

During the second meeting, the current LRSD supports, which can be built upon, were identified. These supports included inter-collaborative days, subject advisory committees, ETAC, teacher 2 teacher, PD opportunities - to name of few.

We then decided upon a plan to gather input from teachers. It was suggested that we conduct an on-line Zoomerang survey asking teacher to comment about tasks or policies which 1) increase workload without adding real value to the learning experience of students or to your professional practice, and 2) which tasks or policies reduce teacher efficacy.

The survey will ask some basic demographic question to see what key issues are perhaps associated with school size or years of teaching experience. Only Darryl Seguin and I, as co chairs of the C2 committee, will see the raw data from teachers and from that we will look for trends that can be brought forth to the committee. The survey is essential pathway for teacher voices to be heard. We are still working on getting it set up but you will receive a link directly to the survey through your email in the upcoming month.

The report on our initial C2 work will be submitted to the ATA to the board, and to Alberta Ed by October 31st.

Everyone is very optimistic about working together, and there is a tone of collaboration and cooperation, in working together as partners.