
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Economic Development
BC College of Teachers

ALBERTA AND B.C. TEACHERS AGREE TO LABOUR MOBILITY

VICTORIA – Teachers from British Columbia and Alberta have signed the Teacher Mobility Agreement (TMA), allowing two-way labour mobility for teachers under the Trade, Investment, Labour and Mobility Agreement (TILMA), announced Minister of Economic Development Colin Hansen today.

As of April 1, 2008, teachers from Alberta’s public and independent schools will be able to teach in British Columbia’s schools and vice versa. The TMA comes one full year ahead of the original deadline of April 1, 2009 for full labour mobility.

The TMA was signed by Alberta’s director and registrar, teacher development and certification, Marc Prefontaine, BC College of Teacher’s registrar, Marie Crowther and Independent Schools of B.C. inspector, Susan Penner.

“This is a big step forward for TILMA, and is a paramount example of cooperation between professional groups in Alberta and British Columbia,” said Hansen, “The teachers have created the blueprint for all other professions to follow, so that workers in B.C. and Alberta will have the freedom to work where they choose without all of the restrictions and costly red tape they currently face.”

“This agreement will lead to a more streamlined system that offers increased choice and flexibility for teachers,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “Providing new options for teachers is one more way we can work together to improve student achievement.”

“The teachers of Alberta and British Columbia should be proud of an agreement which allows them much more flexibility to move from one province to another. Parents in both provinces can be assured that their children will continue to be taught by some of the most talented and dedicated teachers in the world,” said Crowther.

Similar agreements are being negotiated with all occupations where a license is required to work in B.C and Alberta. By April 1, 2009, B.C. and Alberta will have reconciled so that all skilled workers can work in either province.

The TILMA is Canada’s most comprehensive inter-provincial trade agreement and creates a market of 7.8 million people -- Canada’s second largest economy. More information on the TILMA is available at www.tilma.ca.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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