

December 31, 2018

Dear Bridging Teacher Certificate Holders:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union have agreed to amend the *Teacher Certification Regulations* to no longer issue Bridging Teacher's Certificates (BTC).

This change comes into effect on January 1, 2019, and will support retention efforts for current Nova Scotia teachers who were certified in other Canadian jurisdictions, as well as, support recruitment efforts of teachers from other Canadian jurisdictions who are considering working in Nova Scotia. These regulatory changes to teacher certification are complementary to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and the provisions under Labour Mobility.

Because of the regulatory change:

- The Registrar of Teacher Certification will now recognize qualifications that led to initial certification in other Canadian jurisdictions as equivalent to those in Nova Scotia.
- Current holders of a BTC are eligible to receive a higher level of classification.

BTC holders are encouraged to apply for an increase in certification and receive (minimally) an Initial Teacher's Certificate (ITC).

To apply for a higher classification:

- 1) Please visit [www.certification.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.certification.ednet.ns.ca) and click "Forms & Fees".
- 2) Click "Forms for Program Approval & Change in Classification".
- 3) Click and complete an "Application for a Change in Classification – BTC Holders".
- 4) Submit application and \$35.00 payment for change in classification (money order or receipt from online payment) in one package to the Office of Teacher Certification.

Applications received on or after January 1, 2019, but before February 28, 2019, will be eligible for an effective date of January 1, 2019, as per Article 16.07 of the Teachers' Provincial Agreement (TPA). All applications for a Change in Classification received after February 28, 2019, will continue to be subject to the effective dates listed in Article 16.07 of the TPA.

Please note, this change does not have any impact on endorsements. If you have completed additional coursework that is not on file with the Office of Teacher Certification, please submit official transcripts in sealed envelopes to determine any impacts on certification, including endorsements.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Brown, Registrar - Teacher Certification