

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past September, we welcomed 3 exchange teachers from the UK, Germany and Australia. In January 2018, we have an additional 6 teachers arriving from Australia. Teachers are located mostly in the lower mainland and on Vancouver Island. Although we are disappointed that our numbers are smaller this year, we are encouraged that the logistics of meeting will be greatly enhanced by the closer locations.

The BC Exchange Teachers' Association hopes that these teachers have a wonderful professional and personal experience while in British Columbia.

Our Association's main objective this year is to promote the exchange program across the province. This will be done by hosting a number of social gatherings in various locations. Upcoming events on the lower mainland include a 5 Pin Bowling Night early in February and a Curling Bonspiel later the same month. ([see calendar of events](#))

The CEEF has a new coordinator this year, Melanie Lindayen. She has been working closely with the various stakeholders (Canadian League for Education Exchange, BCETA) to update the written material provided by the CEEF in order to streamline the application process. We hope that these updated materials, distributed to all incoming exchange teachers, will be of use as they navigate the complexities of teaching and living in their Canadian home.

CEEF and BCETA are looking at ways to communicate more effectively with exchangees given the challenges presented by the great distances in our province. To this end, we hope to institute an electronic chat session conducted on a regular basis as a means of sharing both knowledge and concerns between our organization and all exchange teachers.

After a very successful weekend in Victoria last May, we intend to repeat this event in 2018. If you would like to participate in the organization of the Victoria Conference, please [contact us](#) as soon as possible.

## The current executive for the BCETA is:

President/Communications Chair:

Catherine Gagnon – [bcexchangeteachers@gmail.com](mailto:bcexchangeteachers@gmail.com)

Vice-President

Martin Wheeler - [wheeler\\_m@surreyschools.ca](mailto:wheeler_m@surreyschools.ca)

Treasurer

Kulwant Toor – [ktoor@shaw.ca](mailto:ktoor@shaw.ca)

Secretary

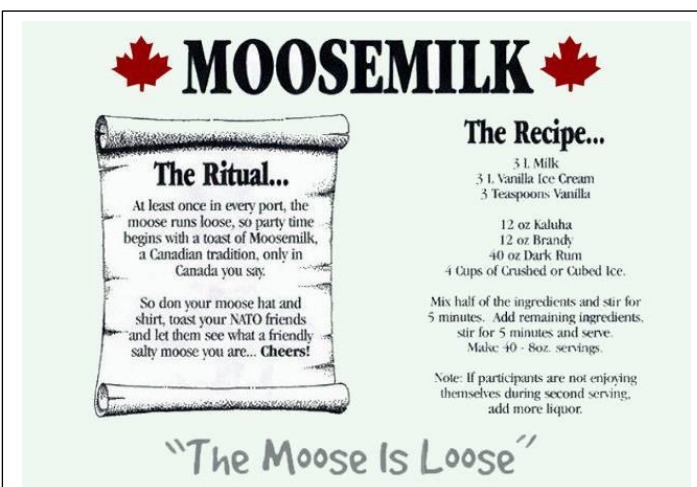
Leon Jensen – [Leonj1@hotmail.com](mailto:Leonj1@hotmail.com)

Members at large - Mel and June Caldwell

## About Us

The BC Exchange Teachers' Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to hosting information sessions and social activities with the intent to make the year an exciting and memorable one for exchange teachers and their families. <http://BCExchangeTeachers.ca>

Welcome to BC! Our association is made up of former exchange teachers who are delighted to share their experience with current exchangees. We welcome any questions or comments you might have regarding all matters related to your teaching exchange.



**MOOSEMILK**

**The Ritual...**  
At least once in every port, the moose runs loose, so party time begins with a toast of Moosemilk, a Canadian tradition, only in Canada you say.  
So don your moose hat and shirt, toast your NATO friends and let them see what a friendly salty moose you are... **Cheers!**

**The Recipe...**  
3 L Milk  
3 L Vanilla Ice Cream  
3 Teaspoons Vanilla  
12 oz Kaluha  
12 oz Brandy  
40 oz Dark Rum  
4 Cups of Crushed or Cubed Ice.  
Mix half of the ingredients and stir for 5 minutes. Add remaining ingredients, stir for 5 minutes and serve.  
Make 40 - 80z. servings.  
Note: If participants are not enjoying themselves during second serving, add more liquor.

"The Moose Is Loose"

[Read all about our BCETA Christmas Dinner here.](#)

**Help us plan our calendar of events** - Do you have an idea for an activity that exchange teachers might be interested in and could travel to without too much difficulty? It could be a skiing event in the interior over a long weekend, winery tour, whale watching, hiking trips, a corn maze, hosting a BBQ or potluck, or even a walking tour of your town or city. We are open to all suggestions. If you have an idea and would like to help out, please contact [Catherine Gagnon](#).

Newsletter Editor: Catherine Gagnon

[bcexchangeteachers@gmail.com](mailto:bcexchangeteachers@gmail.com)

Now available – newsletters from CLEE (Canadian League for Education Exchange) and other Australian International Teaching Fellowships <http://feb122010.wordpress.com>

## Coming Events

<b>Feb</b>	Welcome to Southern Hemisphere Exchangees/Welcome Back Canadians
<b>Feb 3</b>	<b>5 Pin Bowling</b> Curling Bonspiel Lower Mainland
<b>April</b>	Potluck dinner Lower Mainland
<b>May</b>	<b>Victoria Conference Weekend</b>
<b>June</b>	Farewell to Northern Hemisphere Exchangees
<b>Sept</b>	Fraser Valley Day and BBQ
<b>Oct</b>	Information session – Lower Mainland Halloween celebration
<b>Nov</b>	Information session – Vancouver Island
<b>Dec</b>	Traditional Christmas dinner/ farewell to our Southern Hemisphere teachers

## Suggested Activities

- Visit the Fairmont Empress – One to the best known landmarks in Victoria. Their high tea is renowned. Prices vary by season, so you might plan a visit in the fall or winter months. [Tea at the Fairmont Empress](#)
- Stanley Park is the iconic outdoor destination in Vancouver. Explore the seawall on foot or cycle, the First Nations' totems are always a great photo-op and don't miss the Aquarium. [Download a self-guided tour here.](#)
- BC is well known for its wildlife and outdoor adventures. [Here is a list of ideas to help you plan.](#)
- If you love winter and can't wait, start planning a ski weekend to [Manning Park Resort](#). Or consider a Whistler weekend in April when the prices drop.
- Closer to Vancouver, you can enjoy the awesome sights from [Grouse Mountain](#) on the Skyride. Try your hand at skiing or snowboarding.
- Skiing is also available on Vancouver Island at [Mount Washington](#).
- Living on the island? [Consult this guide](#) for a list of festivals and events.
- Kelowna has some [amazing activities during the winter months](#). It's not always about wine you know!
- Take in the [Prince George Winter Festival](#) with activities all through February.
- Enjoy the snow in [Nelson](#).



**CANADIAN EDUCATION EXCHANGE FOUNDATION**  
FONDATION CANADIENNE DES ECHANGES EDUCATIFS

## INTERNATIONAL TEACHING EXCHANGES

For Canadian educators (and their families) interested in a reciprocal teaching exchange in Australia, France, Germany, Switzerland, the US, or Inter-provincially.

Participants continue to be employed and paid by their Canadian school board during their exchange year.

### ABOUT THE CANADIAN EDUCATION EXCHANGE FOUNDATION

CEEF is a not-for-profit Canadian organization, and the only organization mandated by the Ministries/Departments of Education and Training to coordinate international exchanges for educators in Ontario, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI.

The Teacher Exchange Program offers elementary and secondary level educators the opportunity to enhance their career in a cross-cultural setting, and foster global perspectives across education systems.

### HOW IT WORKS

Canadian teachers exchange positions with an educator in a partner country or province, for the period of one year. Participants swap housing with the incoming exchange partner and accompanying family members.

CEEF matches participants based on teaching qualifications, positions, housing and destination preferences.

### CAN I GO ON EXCHANGE?

Key criteria:

- Valid Canadian teaching certification AND a full-time, permanent assignment
- Minimum of 5 years teaching experience. Principals or vice-principals should be at least 2 years in their current school
- Recommendation and formal approval from the school and board/district
- Adaptability, mature judgment and willingness to meet challenges

### FOR SCHOOLS AND BOARDS/DISTRICTS

CEEF works with school authorities across Canada, and their foreign counterparts, to match qualified teachers for exchange - at no additional cost to the employers.

All participants must meet the requirements of their host jurisdiction, and should be supported as a member of the teaching staff during the exchange year. CEEF supports all parties with administration and to ensure compliance with professional and immigration requirements.

### HOW DO I APPLY?

- Read the Teacher Exchange 'Information Package': <http://bit.ly/2AMWwUj>
- Discuss the opportunity and timing with your school administration.
- Complete the Teacher Exchange 'Application Package', including references, attachments and signatures: <http://bit.ly/2hFxQte>
- Submit your application and \$300 (+HST) Application Fee

Applications are accepted throughout the year. Priority for the 2018/2019 exchange cycle will be given to applications received before:

- DEC 31, 2017 → for SEPT 2018 start date (Europe and North America);
- JAN 31, 2018 → for JAN 2019 start date (Australia)

**CONTACT CEEF TEACHER EXCHANGE PROGRAM: MELANIE LINDAYEN**  
TEACHERS@CEEFF.CA • +1 705 739 7596

Applications for the 2018- 2019 cycle are now being accepted. If you'd like to share the poster with your colleagues, please download the [attached file](#) and share widely!

### Meeting with Christophe Gargot, Director of international relations (DAREIC)

With recent news of the UK exchanges being discontinued, along with the ongoing disappointment that exchanges with Western Australia will no longer be organized by a local agency, it was a great pleasure to meet a representative of the Ministry of Education in France who was in town to help promote teaching exchanges between our countries.

There has been an increased need for French Immersion teachers in our fair province and we hope that members of the BCTF who are currently teaching French or teaching in French will look to a teaching exchange with France as an exciting professional development opportunity.

Mr. Gargot explained that the government of France would like to promote early immersion in their schools and the best way for them to accomplish that is to look at successful models in our country. Although France and Quebec already have agreements for education exchanges, he feels that French exchange teachers would be best to completely immerse themselves in a primarily English speaking community, such as those we find in parts of Ontario and much of BC. Local teacher, Diane Moreau, participated in this program last year with Marie Vitali from France.

As a French teacher in France, you would model our best practices and get to experience a cultural exchange like no other.

If this speaks to you, I encourage you to contact the [CEEF](#) for more information on this exciting opportunity.

*Catherine Gagnon*  
President BCETA



The BC Exchange Teachers' Association was pleased to have a full page dedicated to our exchange teachers in the recent edition of **Teacher magazine**.

We asked 5 teachers who have been on exchange in recent years or are currently on exchange to submit their thoughts on how a teaching exchange has impacted their professional and personal lives. Here is an excerpt:

My professional highlight was teaching in a rural school with kids who were very eager to learn and a staff that was incredibly supportive and appreciative of all that I had to offer. I got to travel to different schools to learn about various numeracy and literacy teaching methods. I directed the school play, and I started a choir called The Forever Young Choir that combined Grade 3s and 4s and local senior citizens. My thirst for greater knowledge about best practice became unquenchable. This exchange taught me so much that, when I came home, I decided to start my master's degree.

**Phebe May, Comox Valley teacher, 2016 exchange teacher in Echuca, Victoria, Australia**

I was teaching a CE2 class, equivalent to Grade 2 for BC. One of my highlights of this experience was a one-week ski trip with my students. Everything went very well for our two Grade 2 and one Grade 1 classes. If I were to do this here with my class everyone would think that I was out of my mind!

**Diane Moreau, Mission teacher, 2016-2017 exchange teacher in Southern France**

Our profession is built on collaboration and mutual respect no matter where you find yourself. When you leave BC and all that is familiar, your colleagues soon become amazing friends. That has been the best part of this exchange-the connections I've made with other professionals.

**Sherry Dittrick, Comox teacher, currently on exchange at Coffs Harbour Public School, NSW, Australia**

Teaching abroad makes me infinitely more dynamic and open-minded as a language educator; I am increasingly culturally literate and sensitive to varying educational philosophies, values, objectives and tools. Moreover, an exchange is an immense opportunity for reciprocity and internationalization. I enjoyed my role as a grassroots ambassador for my country and the Pacific Northwest Region, as well as raising the international profile of Delta School District.

**Audrey Yap, Delta School teacher, 2016-2017 exchange teacher in Lille, France**

Please read the full article [here](#).

### There's more online!

If you follow Facebook, you'll find pages for some great groups and blogs – [CEEF Discussion Group](#) – for Canadian exchange teachers and potential exchanges, this group was set up to allow interested parties to ask and answer questions about their exchange year and preparation leading up to it. Very rich in information. If you've been on exchange from Ontario, BC or the Maritimes, you have worked with the CEEF. Just ask to join.

[ITA](#) – for exchange teachers to Victoria, AU (past and present)

[Turning my world Upside Down](#) – read my own exchange adventures and find links to newsletters from other teaching exchange organizations. [CLEECanada](#) has [website](#) and [blog](#) for exchange teachers in Ontario and BC. The blog also has stories and links for teachers currently exchanging to BC. Many new links have been added from teachers currently on exchange. Wonderful inspiration!

And coming very soon –

[BCExchangeTeachers.ca](#), our own blog about all things relating to BC teaching exchanges.

## BCETA Christmas Dinner

*By Catherine Gagnon*

Our Second Annual BC Exchange Teachers' Association Christmas Gathering was a big success! With 14 former and present exchange teachers in attendance, the Wheeler residence was filled with sounds of sharing past experiences and the excitement of upcoming exchanges.

In attendance were: Gayle Hernandez, off to NSW in the new year, Audrey Yip, returned from her exchange in France (2016-17), Anna Herrick on exchange in Surrey from the UK, Sue and Brad Nickason (Sue was on exchange in Victoria, AU in 2011), Mel and June Caldwell (Australia 2009), Kulwant Toor (Australia 2010) and our hosts Nee and Martin Wheeler (Western Australia 2015). Of course Leon Jensen and I were in attendance. It was wonderful to see Sue again after 6 yrs. We met while we were both on exchange in Australia and hadn't seen each other since.

The dinner consisted of traditional Canadian Christmas food featuring roast turkey, ham, mini tourtieres and Moose Milk! And assortment of desserts were offered by the guests including a Victoria Sandwich from the UK.

Winter driving conditions prevented Fiona and David Leslie from NSW from joining us all the way from Kelowna. And our German exchange teacher, Larisa Pankevic was laid low by a seasonal cold. We all know that report card season saps that energy right out of us!

Conversations revolved around the usual exchange teacher topics: favorite holiday spots, comparing school systems and whether or not future exchanges are in the works. Leon and I are excited to be meeting up with Gayle on her first day in Australia, Dec 31, to celebrate New Year's Eve. We will be travelling throughout Australia, catching up with old friends we've made since our exchange in 2011 and meeting some of the coordinators who make exchanges possible in that country. Once again, the network of exchange teachers has served us well in planning our travels and sharing common memories.



**Nee Wheeler, our hostess and me**



**The conversation got louder and livelier as the evening went on. We had so much to share!**