

GR-1471  
 British Columbia  
 Department of Education  
 Records with regard to teacher training and certification  
 Originals 1884-1949 90 cm

Prior to 1901, teachers in British Columbia were drawn either from outside the province or (after 1876) from graduates of provincial high schools. All teachers required teaching certificates, which were awarded by the Superintendent of Education. Teachers from outside the province were required to sit an examination set by the Provincial Board of Examiners: candidates were awarded different grades or classes of certificates, depending on the results of their exam. High school graduates qualified for certificates in a similar manner, depending on their scores on terminal examinations.

Standards of certification changed frequently over the years, as did the questions which appeared on the "Public School Teachers' Examinations." Basically, though, several classes of certificates were available: Academic and First Class (awarded to university graduates and/or to candidates scoring over 70% on the exam); Second class (awarded to candidates scoring over 50% on examinations); and Third class (awarded to candidates scoring 30% and above on a series of exam questions). First class certificates were permanent, 2nd class were valid for 3 years, while 3rd class certificates were generally good for one year, with the possibility of renewal. "Temporary certificates," valid until the annual examinations were held in July, were also issued under certain circumstances.

In 1901 the province's first Normal School for teacher training was opened in Vancouver. (A second school, in Victoria, was opened in 1915.) Thereafter, graduation from the Normal School replaced the "Public School Teachers' Examinations" for those seeking Academic, First, and Second class certificates. Only Third class certificates valid for a limited period of time were still awarded on the basis of candidates' high school examinations.

Records in GR-1471 include minute books of the provincial Board of Examiners (1884-1949), teachers' certificate registers (1892-1947), and registers of the provincial Normal Schools (1901-1938). Also included are high school examination results for the period 1924-1927. These records were transferred to the Provincial Archives by the Ministry of Education: Teachers' Services Branch in July 1984.

GR-1471 may be used in conjunction with GR-1468 (Board of Education minute books and teachers' certificate registers, 1872-1884). Researchers may also find it useful to consult MS-1921 (D.L. MacLaurin, "History of Education in British Columbia") for details on the development of teacher training and certification procedures in the province.

Volume	File	Subject
1	1	Board of Examiners. Minute book, 1884-1901
1	2	Board of Examiners. Minute book, 1902-1921
2	1	Board of Examiners. Minute book, 1922-1938
3	1	Board of Examiners. Minute book, 1939-1949
3	2	Board of Examiners. Correspondence & reports, 1948-1949
3	3	Appointments Board. Minute book, 1937-1945

Volume	File	Subject
3	4	Appointments Board. Additional minutes, 1940-1945
4	1	Teachers Certificate Register, 1892-1894 [showing names of certified teachers, type of certificate earned, and results of certification exam]
5	1	Teachers Certificate Register, 1894-1901
6	1	Teachers Certificate Register, 1901-1919
7	1	Teachers Certificate Register, 1919-1932
8	1	Teachers Certificate Register, 1932-1947
9	1	Provincial Normal Schools (Vancouver & Victoria). Register of Students, 1901-1929
10	1	Provincial Normal School. Vancouver: Student Register (alphabetical), 1911-1938
11	1	Provincial Normal School (Vancouver). List of graduates, 1902-1910; 1925
11	2	Provincial Normal Schools (Vancouver & Victoria). Teachers qualified for Physical Training certificates, 1920-1922
11	3	Provincial Normal Schools (Vancouver & Victoria). Sessional standing-sheets of students, 1921-1923
11	4	Provincial Normal School (Vancouver). Sessional standing-sheets of students, 1923-1924
11	5	Provincial Normal School (Victoria). Sessional standing-sheets of students, 1923-1924
12	1	High School Examination Records, 1924-1927; also students' records for 3 <sup>rd</sup> year Commercial, 3 <sup>rd</sup> year Household Science, and 3 <sup>rd</sup> year Technical Exams, 1924-1927