



ESTABLISHMENT AND AFFILIATION

Professional growth networks are subject to all STF policies as outlined in the Federation's *Governance Handbook*. Networks may be established in a subject field, service area or interdisciplinary group with membership open to any person with a supportive interest in the network.

The Federation does not exercise any control over network elections or how they choose to spend their basic grant funds. Professional growth networks exist as separate entities subject to the conditions outlined in the organizational and operational policies and processes.

Professional growth networks are advised to register as charitable organizations or to incorporate if significant funding is made available through lottery or other government grants. Information may be obtained from the Canada Revenue Agency.

Affiliation of professional growth networks with the Federation has several important benefits including financial assistance, membership services, printing and publication services, and services available through the Emma Stewart Resources Centre and STF Professional Learning. In addition, a limited number of special project grants are made available each year to support various initiatives. Networks must meet certain criteria to remain in good standing with the Federation.

WHAT ARE PROFESSIONAL GROWTH NETWORKS?

Professional growth networks are affiliated with the Federation and are provided with several important benefits, including financial assistance, membership

services, printing and publication services, and other professional growth assistance.

The general purpose of professional growth networks is to support professional growth and lifelong learning of its members through:

- Networking, communications and other innovative professional growth opportunities, i.e., workshops, webinars, social media tools, collaborating with STF Professional Learning, etc.
- Contributing to the improvement of teaching and learning through the sharing of promising practices and resources, i.e., networking tools, teaching strategies, lesson plans, etc.
- Engaging in research that contributes to the improvement of teaching and learning, i.e., participation in a McDowell Foundation research project, working with universities, etc.
- Celebrating the accomplishments of students, teachers and schools, i.e., public relations material, publications, awards, etc.

Membership is not limited to teachers but includes any person with a professional interest in the activities of the networks.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

What likely comes to mind first are the professional growth opportunities offered by networks that allow members to gain insight and enhance their skills. Or, perhaps it is the events and publications that keep network members on the leading edge of thinking and experiences in their area of interest.

Those factors alone make membership in a network worthwhile, however, membership brings with it so much more. It brings an opportunity to play a leadership role in education in Saskatchewan by being part of a group of organizations that:

- Address issues and challenges facing schools today.
- Raise awareness and encourage discussion through submission of resolutions to the Federation's Annual Meeting of Council.
- Help develop policies in areas such as evaluation.
- Help shape implementation of renewed curriculum.
- Support and enable research and facilitate projects of benefit to students, teachers and the community.
- Recognize excellence through awards and other programs.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

All Federation members are entitled to receive a yearly membership to a professional growth network of their choice as part of the privilege of being a STF member. Members can choose their network by logging in through MySTF on the website.

For non-STF members, professional growth networks are requested to use a form, such as the Sample Membership Application or Renewal form, of their own design that incorporates the following information:

- Purpose(s) for which the information is being collected, used and disclosed.
- Preferred email address and telephone number.
- Any special consent required.
- Signature and date.

If a professional growth network requires additional information for other purposes (i.e., for a conference), their membership application form may be modified to include this information. It is important the purposes for collection, use and disclosure of all

information is clearly stated on the form to comply with applicable privacy legislation.

A report on the memberships processed monthly at the Federation is sent to the president of each professional growth network. A current membership list can be requested at any time.

Membership lists are the property of professional growth networks. The Federation shall not provide these lists to anyone other than the networks. Networks are required to develop policies and procedures regarding disclosure of membership information that are in compliance with applicable privacy legislation.

AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS

A professional growth network must meet certain criteria to remain in good standing with the Federation. When any of the criteria are not met, a review of the network's affiliation shall be initiated. The criteria includes provision of evidence of the network operating and serving its purpose and membership.

- Current membership with a minimum of 50 members, with at least 50 percent of whom must be Federation members. However, the minimum requirement of 50 members may be waived if the network has a plan for sustainable operations. Also, Federation members must comprise over 50 percent of the network executive.
- President's annual report.
- Approved audited financial statement or review engagement report.
- Proposed budget.
- Annual general meeting minutes.
- Bylaw amendments that align with Federation policies.
- Policies approved by the network.

REPRESENTATION

Section 36 of *The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006* establishes the STF Executive as the official voice of teachers when making presentations to government ministries, departments and officials.

However, it is recognized that professional growth networks may be in a position, because of their interest and expertise, to voice proposals for consideration in the formulation of Federation policies and in the conduct of Federation affairs.

Accordingly, a professional growth network is entitled to:

- Make submissions, by arrangement and either orally or in writing, to the STF Executive or to any advisory committee of the Federation.
- Submit resolutions to the Annual Meeting of Council, according to the procedures outlined in Federation policies.
- Make a direct presentation to government-sponsored commissions, boards or committees who seek input from the education sector with prior approval of the STF Executive.

These representations shall only occur if the professional growth network has at least 50 percent of their members who are Federation members and an executive comprised of over 50 percent Federation members.

As an affiliate of the Federation, a professional growth network must comply with provincial legislation regarding lobbyist activity. Therefore, networks must ensure the compliance of Section 36 of *The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006* to avoid any legislated penalties.

What is The Lobbyists Act for Saskatchewan?

The *Lobbyists Act* outlines a number of obligations for lobbyists in Saskatchewan, including the requirement that all individuals or organizations who are paid for, and employees whose work includes lobbying functions, to register their lobbying activities on the Saskatchewan Lobbyist Registry.

Lobbyist Obligations

Lobbyists are required to submit information to the lobbyist registry about communications with public office holders to be compliant with the legislation.

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation registers with the Lobbyist Registry as an in-house lobbyist because we advocate for legislation, regulations, policies, programs and services to improve the quality of education and the delivery of educational support for and by teachers. This includes lobbying for equitable, sufficient and sustainable resources and supports for the delivery and funding of PreK-12 education and teacher professional development programs.