

What drew you to education?

Originally, residing in a remote Northern community, I didn't think becoming an educator was a possibility. But then, in my senior year at high school, all students were required to complete a career aptitude test. Through conversations around aspirations, my guidance counsellor gave me the confidence and courage to explore various pathways. I quickly learned that becoming a teacher was attainable. That year, the local college and a lower mainland university partnered to offer a two-year university transfer program. I was able to complete my education because the instructors offered coursework at the local campus. This opportunity increased my career choices. To this day, I love and respect being in education. I am grateful that times have changed, allowing students increased access to varied educational options. I am proud to be a part of a public education system that provides more opportunities for delivery of services to meet students where they are at.

What drew you to this role with the BCPVPA?

My first experience with BCPVPA was participating in Short Course I as a participant and, subsequently, as a presenter. I have also had the opportunity be part of the Contract Advisory Committee and have been representing the Northern and Fraser Valley Region for the past several years. During this past year, I was able to serve on the Board of Directors. These unique opportunities through our Association have helped me to develop as an educational leader, learn about the role of governance and policy, and understand the importance of self-reflection as it pertains to the leadership standards necessary to do our complex work. I always feel welcome and valued for my contributions as a long-standing member of our Association. The work BCPVPA does on behalf of our colleagues is far reaching. As a well-respected educational partner, I wanted to become part of the synergy that BCPVPA creates to support our colleagues in the same way the Association has supported me throughout my career.

What are you most looking forward to in this new role?

I am excited to continue to serve our Association. In the new role with Member Support Services, I am looking forward to working alongside Principals and Vice-Principals, and networking and connecting to others who share the same passion for making a difference in the public school system with all we have to offer in BC. I plan to share thoughtful perspectives on challenging issues. BCPVPA has a proven track record of providing effective and supportive service, quality mentorship, abundant professional development opportunities, quality legal education and council, and advocacy with government and other provincial educational partners. Administrators in the province have tremendous responsibilities, with vast volume and complexity that make the profession challenging, yet interesting and rewarding. I look forward to being a positive and productive team member through advocacy and providing exemplary leadership development within our system.



Teacher
8 Years

Vice-Principal
1 Year

Principal
14 Years

My favorite quote is about connection.

"Connection is the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard and valued; when they can give and receive without judgement; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship" This quote by Brené Brown resonates with me because we are wired for connection with people all around us, with nature and within ourselves! By creating an environment that supports listening, mindfulness, and compassion, we create the space and time to be our authentic selves. By being open, inquisitive, and generous, I feel leaders can authentically cultivate deeper relationships.

What drew you to education?

The notion of continuous learning: I enjoy learning, and sharing my learning. When I was in grade 3, I received a full psychological diagnosis of dyslexia; this element of my life has forced me to stay humble, and to use my listening abilities to work hard, unlearn, learn, and relearn. The support of my family and teachers at that time set me on a path to education, and my 4.5 years as Director of North American Markets with Franklin/Covey also fueled my passion for learning and helped me to know myself.

For many years, I have been intrigued by the idea of competency bias (*we are incompetent at knowing how incompetent or competent we are, so we may see less or more than we think*). We have no way of knowing how much other people know. Not knowing what I know is the curiosity for learning that I hope I have modelled for my students and staff.

What drew you to this role with the BCPVPA?

This role allows me to share learning, and to learn alongside my Principal colleagues. *Ever climbed a mountain?* The higher you get, the farther you can see, and the bigger your horizon. You can only see 360 degrees when you are at the top. Working with the BCPVPA gives me the 6,000 foot view to share with my colleagues. We sometimes get stuck on top of our mountain, and we don't know what's happening on our neighbouring mountain. My new role allows me to share that broad learning, and to advocate for my colleagues at the provincial level.

The BCPVPA brings many different educational contexts to our members, as a balance to the paradoxical handicap of too much information and a single perspective on understanding that information. Our culture often confuses access to information with the understanding of information and its deepening to knowledge. I plan to support our members in navigating that ever-evolving flow of educational information.

What are you most looking forward to in this new role?

I look forward to sharing Principals' and Vice-Principals' voices from around the province, and reminding those listening about the critical role of school leaders in BC's educational system.

I look forward to creating and delivering professional learning, with a focus on designing learning that is free of biases, remnants of colonialism, and inequity, in a learning environment where it is safe to share without judgement from 'others in the room'.

I look forward to sharing PLD with a firm grounding and allowing for ambiguity: so much of PLD is about unknowing and new learning. On this shared journey, we will find that we know more than we think we did, are capable of more than we thought we were, and that we all still have a lot more to learn.

A portrait of John F. Kennedy, a middle-aged man with a grey beard and mustache, smiling. He is wearing a blue checkered shirt under a dark blue blazer. The background is a dense green hedge.

"Leadership
and learning are
indispensable to
each other."

John F. Kennedy

Teacher
7 Years

Vice-Principal
5 Years

Principal
15 Years

What drew you to education?

I am from a large family. We had a playroom complete with second-hand textbooks (even a teacher's guide with the answers), a chalkboard, and a set of antique desks. My older sister was always the teacher, and I was not a very well-behaved student. When I was eight, my mom - with five children under the age of twelve - went back to finish high school and on to complete her university degree and receive her teaching certificate. With my parents as educators, modelling the ethic of care and service, it is not surprising that three of the five siblings became teachers. Teaching came naturally to us.

I realized very early in my teacher training that I love listening to children, hearing their thinking, sharing in their wonder, and seeing them grow. As a Principal, I came to understand that I love being part of a community with a shared purpose.

What drew you to this role with the BCPVPA?

It all started with Short Course I, when my eyes were opened to the legal side of the job. I quickly became involved in the Comox Valley Principals and Vice Principals Chapter as the PLD co-chair, gathering ideas from our rep meetings and bringing them back to share with our colleagues. Over the past several years, I have been the co-chair for Professional Learning in the Coquitlam Chapter. I have been involved in Short Course I as a participant, a facilitator, and a planner. I had the great opportunity to be part of a team that designed and delivered an Offshore Leadership Development program for Principals working in schools delivering BC's curriculum overseas. Over the past 18 months, I have contributed to the development of the online offerings Essentials for Aspiring School Leaders and Essentials for New School Leaders. The BCPVPA professional learning opportunities have been a valued part of my leadership journey, and I want to facilitate that experience for others.

What are you most looking forward to in this new role?

Every change I have made in my education journey has created a broadened perspective. I remember becoming a Vice-Principal, and promising myself that I could always go back to classroom if it was not a good fit. I loved the challenge, and that my world became bigger. I was not centered around my class: I had to think of everyone. When I became a Principal, I realized the responsibility was now mine, which strengthened my integrity. When I became a Principal at the district level, I had to consider all of the ripples of my decisions.

I look forward to the new learning that awaits me. I will lead inquiry into how we can deepen our cultural competency, how we can listen to learn, and how we can broaden our perspectives and challenge our personal biases. In this role, as a leader of professional learning, my objective is to support the collective strengthening of our profession through life-long learning.

*Meg Wheatley is one of my
grounding authors and
she is a co-founder of the
Berkana Institute.*

*I share Berkana's principles in
how I lead, learn, and live:*

- *Whatever the problem,
community is the answer*
- *Diversity is a blessing, not
a problem*
- *The leaders we need are
already here*
- *People support what they
create*
- *Self-awareness is the
foundation for good leadership*
- *A living system is a learning
system*

*I live into these principles
by actively developing our
collective ability to collaborate,
listen and inquire.*

**Teacher
11 Years**

**Vice-Principal
8 Years**

**Principal
15 Years**

