

VESTA WEEKLY

TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT! PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

IN THIS ISSUE

Red for BCED - Page 1

Solidarity for UNITE HERE 40 - Page 2

Mask Mandate - Page 2

Vaccines - Page 2

Provincial Mentorship Funds - Page 3

Congrats to Olga on her retirement - Page 3

VSBC Budget - Page 3



Red for BCED



Last week we were feeling some relief as a mask mandate was implemented. This week, we are feeling the stress of the skyrocketing cases compounded with the influx of variants being reported in the Vancouver Coastal Health Region. There are so many moving parts in our daily realities that make feeling safe at work a constant challenge. While we are working on so many fronts to address our Health & Safety concerns, we know that our members are struggling and feeling isolated. And this struggle will continue until our government, our Provincial Health Officer, our Regional Health authorities, the Ministry of Education, and our employer mandate better safety provisions in our schools. VESTA continues to pressure these bodies to act boldly and make schools safe for everyone.

We hope that members are having discussions at their VESTA meetings. We know that virtual meetings are hard, but it is so important to stay connected with our colleagues while we navigate our way through the last stretch of this school year. For those members who are feeling motivated to enact some political action, please talk to your Staff Rep. We will be discussing this topic at our next Staff Rep Assembly, so it would be great to hear from different schools which will help us plan accordingly.

In the meantime, some political action we can do is be visible in our solidarity with one another. Wearing RED on Fridays is a way for us to feel connected in our struggle right now. Red for BCED shirts are available at the VESTA office, 2915 Commercial Drive. We'll be in the parking lot Thursday, April 8th & Wednesday, April 14th from 3-5pm for you to swing by and get your shirt if you are in the area. We are working on the logistics of getting shirts to schools, so Staff Reps can still send their shirt orders to vanessa@vesta.ca. Those members not attached to a school can fill out the following [survey](#).

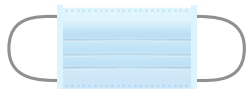
Solidarity for UNITE HERE 40

Over 50,000 B.C. hotel workers were laid off when the pandemic struck. When the hotel industry began mass firings of hotel workers at hotels last summer, workers took their fight to the province, but the government failed to protect workers who want a right to return to their jobs when the industry recovers. Pan Pacific Vancouver, Hilton Metrotown and Pacific Gateway Hotel are just a few of the hotels taking drastic measures to permanently lay off long-term staff – many of them women of colour who have served these hotels for decades. This is just the tip of the iceberg. Thousands more women are at risk of permanently losing their livelihoods.

Unite Here 40 that represents hotel workers in BC has been campaigning tirelessly to advocate for their members' recall rights to be respected by hotel employers. BCTF passed a resolution at the recent AGM to donate \$1 per member to express our support for our union siblings, a vast majority of whom are women supporting their families. The struggle of Unite Here 40 is fundamentally tied to our struggle as teachers and workers. Indeed, an injury to one is an injury to all.

Teachers and their families can support women in BC's hospitality industry who are fighting to protect their jobs by not giving business to hotels that do not commit to bringing workers back to their jobs. For a list of hotels, go to: <https://www.bcunequalwomen.org/bc-travel-alert/>

Mask Mandate



The VSB plan has been updated to reflect the new mask mandate and requirements for grades 4 - 7.

Remember that there will continue to be some students who cannot safely wear a mask, but that all others are expected to, including teachers, unless a barrier is in place. If you are eating, 2m physical distancing is required. It's important to remember that masks are part of, but do not replace, physical distancing.

In K-3, masks are encouraged and teachers can and should use proactive and positive measures to support safe mask wearing in addition to other controls such as hand washing and physical distancing.

Vaccines

The Provincial steering committee met Tuesday and the BCTF will be meeting with Minister Whiteside tomorrow. VESTA continues to attend BCTF updates and waits for any new information that will be provided on the roll out of vaccines for education workers.

We anticipate that information will be available shortly and will promote any updates in this space when available. Remember that VESTA Health and Safety Committee meeting is upcoming on April 12 at 4 pm, link can be found on the **VESTA Website**.



Provincial Mentorship Funds

VESTA's \$625,000 is now available for members to apply for release time for mentorship purposes. This funding was part of the 2019 Provincial settlement and is under the control of the union.

Application forms can be found [here](#). A committee comprised of VESTA EC members will review applications and follow up to ensure broad and equitable distribution of funds.

This is a one time fund and the priority is getting release time into members' hands to support peer mentorship and supportive collaboration.

Congratulations to Olga Campeanu on her retirement from the VESTA office staff!

We would like to announce that our financial/administrative support staff person, Olga Campeanu, has retired as of April 1 2021. She spent 16 years working with VESTA and our other TFEU staff and we want to take this opportunity to thank her for her years of service and dedication. She spent many years organizing our SRA, GMs, and AGMs along with many other tasks behind the scenes to support VESTA members. From support with our annual budget setting process, staff rep release, to BCTF grants, Olga worked closely with IHTOs, staff, and the membership over the years. We wish her all the best in her retirement!

VSU Budget

VESTA reps are participating in the VSU budget setting process, encouraging services close to classrooms, additional supports for students and maintenance and improvement of staffing to support programming. Our submission also includes the application of any COVID related savings back into staffing.

There is frustration that transparency continues to be a challenge and the Divisional budget has not yet been released despite repeated requests from VESTA and Trustees. We were encouraged to see and want to thank Trustee Reddy and Parrot for insisting on timely and relevant information prior to budgetary decisions being made! As a result of their advocacy, the budget adoption has been delayed until May when the divisional budget will be provided and adequate time provided for feedback from stakeholders.





Joanne Sutherland
President
joanne@vesta.ca

Allison Jambor
1st Vice President
allison@vesta.ca

Darren Tereposky
2nd Vice President
darren@vesta.ca

Jody Polukoshko
3rd Vice President
jody@vesta.ca

Donna Brack
AE President
donna@vesta.ca

Office:
604-873-8378
Fax:
604-873-2652
www.vesta.ca



Dates to Remember

**Health & Safety
Committee Meeting**
April 12, 2021 @ 4 pm
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/92774964222>
Meeting ID: 927 7496 4222
Passcode: 597999
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Executive Committee Meeting
April 13, 2021 @ 4 pm
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/97092871996>
Meeting ID: 970 9287 1996
Passcode: 801948
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

**Professional Issues
Committee Meeting**
April 14, 2021 @ 4 pm
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/96416489187>
Meeting ID: 964 1648 9187
Passcode: 118165
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

**Aboriginal Education Committee
Meeting**
April 15, 2021 @ 4 pm
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/97092871996>
Meeting ID: 970 9287 1996
Passcode: 801948
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

