

VESTA WEEKLY

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

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Local Bargaining Completed!

The VTF are pleased to announce that the round of local bargaining concluded yesterday, February 9, in the early afternoon. This represents the agreement between the Employer and the Union and provides the language that will comprise the new local provisions in the upcoming Collective Agreement. This year the local table began earlier than usual in order to allow the local parties to focus on negotiations and the provincial table will begin very soon.

While there were matters that we were not able to achieve in this round, we have made some improvements that will modernize and create better processes for our members in the areas of Personnel Files, Access to Information, Discrimination, Post and Fill, Layoff and Recall, and District Health and Safety.

We also discussed matters related to the involuntary of conversion of TTOCs and while we weren't able to negotiate improvements to process into the Collective Agreement, we did reach agreement to continue discussions after bargaining to address these concerns.

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In this round, we would describe the tone at the table as being productive, characterized by genuine curiosity from both teams and transparent exchanges that helped achieve a negotiated settlement. Discussion between the parties led to greater understanding about matters that were addressed as well as those where agreement could not be reached, and this happened despite the added challenges of some negotiations being held virtually.

We will be conveying detailed information about the agreement in upcoming General Meetings held by both VESTA and VSTA, and the agreement will need to be ratified by a VTF General Meeting, which will be scheduled and communicated to members as soon as possible.

Location of Professional Development on February 18th

We have received clarification from the board that while members are not to be working from home on the District-wide Professional Development date of February 18th, members are able to work from alternate locations such as public or university libraries, other schools, field studies or other such locations that meet their professional development needs. If your administration is insisting that you must engage in professional development only from your school site, please contact allison@vesta.ca. While the union position is that members should be trusted as professionals to work from home, that is not an available option at this time.

Mask Distribution

Last week, the BCTF received a donation of 100,000 N95 masks and have distributed them to locals on a proportionate basis. VESTA has received our share and will be making them available for pick up in the back parking lot of the VESTA Office on Wednesday, February 16 between 8 and 4:30.



Any schools who are unable to pick up their masks on that day will have them delivered, but the delivery time is uncertain at this point. Please communicate together and designate a member who can do pick up and distribution at the school to ensure fewer contacts at the office and accurate delivery!

TTOCs who do not receive a N95 mask through their school will be able to pick one up at the VESTA office on that same day and time.

BC Teachers' Council New Teacher Survey

The BC Teachers' Council is looking to learn more about the experience of educators as they transition from their teacher education programs into the teaching profession. Teachers who completed an approved BC teacher education program between 2015 and 2020 are invited to participate in the BC New Teacher Survey.

[Click here](#) for more details and to complete the survey.

This survey is a follow-up to the initial BCTC New Teacher Survey from 2015. The purpose of the 2015 Survey was to better understand how well-prepared new teachers were for the realities of teaching in the BC K-12 school system. The 2021 Survey takes this aim a step further by focusing on how new teachers entering the BC system develop their professional teacher identity with the end goal of recommending strategies to better support this process. The cross-cutting themes of the survey are the Professional Standards for BC Educators.

Highlighting the New Professional Standard #9

Teachers are likely aware of the Professional Standards that guide our professional work through the BC Teachers' Council, but many may not know that a new Standard has been added that addresses reconciliation and decolonizing.

"Educators respect and value the history of First Nations, Inuit and Metis in Canada and the impact of the past on the present and the future. Educators contribute towards truth, reconciliation and healing. Educators foster a deeper understanding of ways of knowing and being, histories and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Metis."

The BC Teachers' Council is working on an informational video about this new standard, and including lesson plans and resources to support teachers in applying this to their practice. You can read more about the [Professional Standards for BC Educators here](#).

Mentorship Funds

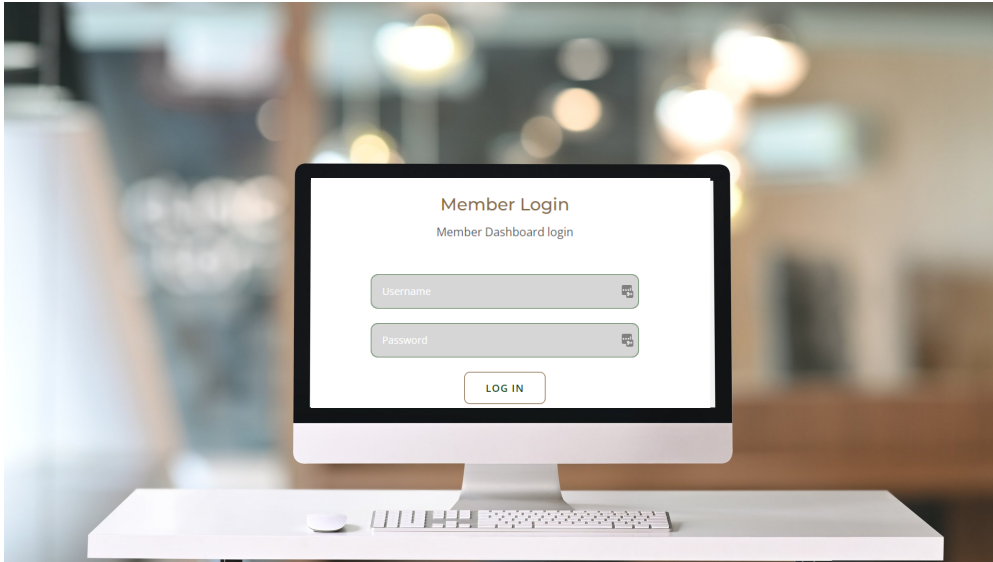
We know that the process of approval for the VESTA Mentorship funds has continued to be slow. Due to bargaining and the increase in workload due to Omicron, we have been struggling to respond to applications. Thank you for your understanding and we are working to get approval communications out to applicants as soon as possible.

Please be reminded that in order to consider applications, they need the names of the teachers who are collaborating. We cannot consider applications with only one name on them. Please establish a mentor/mentee or collaborative relationship prior to submitting an application, and fill out the application form in its entirety. Thank you for your understanding!

VESTA Website

The new VESTA Website goes live next week! We are very excited to make the shift to our new and improved website. We hope that the new functionality will assist members in finding and accessing important information, and will feature a portal for members-only and confidential information.

Please watch your email inbox for information about how to sign into the portal in the coming week. Check it out on February 16!



Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #10

10. We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:

- i. Providing sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation.
- ii. Improving education attainment levels and success rates.
- iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula.
- iv. Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses.
- v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems.
- vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children.
- vii. Respecting and honouring Treaty relationships.

“THEIR SPIRITS LIVE WITHIN US”



31st ANNUAL WOMEN'S MEMORIAL MARCH

MONDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2022

@ 10:30 AM GATHER AT MAIN AND HASTINGS

For family and community remembrance

@ NOON MARCH BEGINS

AT MAIN & HASTINGS.

With stops to commemorate where women were last seen or found

The Memorial March is an opportunity to come together to grieve the loss of our beloved sisters in the Downtown Eastside and to dedicate ourselves to justice. This event is organized and led by women and non-binary people because Indigenous women, girls, two spirit & trans people face physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual violence on a daily basis. All welcome. COVID-protocols: social distancing and masks required. Livestream available on youtube and facebook.

Website: <http://womensmemorialmarch.wordpress.com/>

Artwork courtesy of Christiane Bordier



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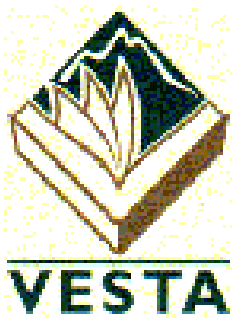
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Dates to Remember

Executive

Committee Meeting

February 15, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83072057110>

Meeting ID: 830 7205 7110

Passcode: 391392

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Professional Issues

Committee Meeting

February 16, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85707100706>

Meeting ID: 857 0710 0706

Passcode: 345826

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

TTOC

Committee Meeting

February 16, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88016064187>

Meeting ID: 880 1606 4187

Passcode: 236115

Dial by your location

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VESTA

The Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association is the union representing elementary teachers and adult educators working in public schools in Vancouver.