

VESTA WEEKLY

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

IN THIS ISSUE

TTOC experience with callout & reassignment - P.1

VESTA supports #Farmers Protest - Page 2

BCTF New Teacher Conference - Page 2

Failures to Fill - Page 2

FSA - Page 3

Section 53 - Bargaining - Page 3

Upcoming BCTF and Social Justice Events - Page 3

Contact us - Page 4

Dates to Remember - Page 4



TTOC experience with callout and reassignment

We know that many schools are experiencing staffing shortages for daily absences that are creating added stress for all of our members. The ongoing inability of the employer to hire enough teachers so that our schools can run smoothly and safely is unacceptable. While we are fighting this battle on many levels, we wanted to shed some light on the situation.

The issue is not that TTOCs aren't working, it's a lack of staffing. While it may look like a TTOC has cancelled a job in SFE, they have actually been redirected by the employer and that has not been communicated to school administration.

Every morning, the employer decides how to mitigate their failure to fill absences by redirecting TTOCs to different job assignments, at different sites. Sometimes even after welcoming the students in a class, TTOCs are asked to pack up their things and go to another school. This is difficult enough in a typical year, but during a pandemic it feels really unsafe.

Repeated redirections are creating high levels of anxiety for TTOCs. When the VSB calls the TTOC to redirect, they don't give an option - you accept the redirection or you don't work that day, thus potentially creating 2 failures to fill. This problematic practice needs to stop. Our district needs to hire more teachers.

VESTA supports #Farmers Protest

In India, farmers are protesting in opposition to 3 new laws that were passed without consultation or consent of Parliament and not only impact farmers, but those connected to the processing, storage, and selling of crops. The new laws open the door to the exploitation of agricultural workers through the elimination of guaranteed prices, and reduce farmer's rights, allowing private investors and corporations greater control over the market.

Teachers understand the impact of privatization, and the General Meeting voted to speak publicly in opposition not only to the 3 unjust laws, but to the limits on freedom of assembly and the right to protest that police violence and brutality has created. The corporatization of farming will have implications not only on the sustainability of farming and accelerating climate change, but on global food security as well.

BCTF New Teacher Conference

The deadline for the New Teacher Conference registration is coming up soon. The BCTF NTC is an excellent way to connect with other early career teachers, do some learning together, and provides the opportunity to network with other teachers from Vancouver and around the province.



VESTA has set aside funds to pay for release time and registration fees for 10 TTOCs and the registration fees for 10 additional Early Career Teachers, please fill out the [CV form](#) on the VESTA website and email to jody@vesta.ca Early Career Teachers can access their school pro-d funds or the supplementary district pro-d funds. The conference will be held virtually on February 26.

Failures to Fill

Thank you to all Staff Reps who were able to submit weekly forms recording the failures to fill and the resulting impact on staffing and support to students. 66 schools submitted data at least once, and from that information, which is just over half of our schools, between October and mid-January,

919.5 days of illness were not replaced

43 days of union leave were not replaced

32 days where non-enrolling teachers were not replaced on or after the 3rd day of absence

568 full days and 179 half days where re-deployment of non-enrolling teachers resulted in loss of service to students.

644 blocks of prep time were delayed

467 blocks where libraries were closed

105 blocks of service to students from itinerant and district staff were lost due to redeployment

This is a serious matter and this data helps us to understand and discuss the workload concerns teachers are facing this year. We will continue to avail ourselves of all possible avenues to resolve the problems leading to the TTOC shortage and provision of service to students.

FSA

Teachers have the right to communicate with parents about educational issues, and may do so through students provided that the material is addressed to the parent and is provided in a sealed envelope. Parents have the right to withdraw their students from the FSA, and may use the BCTF form to do so. Please notify your VESTA in-house liaison if you are having trouble with clarity around either of these issues at your school.

It is VESTA's position that marking of FSAs should be done by administrators, and teacher marking should only be done on a voluntary basis.

Section 53 – Bargaining

Negotiations continue at the Labour Relations Board on the outstanding matters from the previous round of bargaining. The parties are discussing the bargaining structure itself, the “best efforts” provisions and the possibility of an additional salary increase on July 1, as well as the provision of prep time to Adult Educators and Secondary Teachers within the school day.

Updates will be provided when we are able to share, and any potential agreement will be coming to members for ratification. The parties have agreed to dates up to May 1 and so far, discussions have had momentum and purpose.

Upcoming BCTF and Social Justice Events

Aboriginal Education Conference “Beyond Broken Promises” March 5 and 6

New Teacher Conference February 26

New Teacher Zoom Gathering March 10

Earth Day Climate Justice Webinar April 21 10:30-11:30

Disability Day of Mourning March 1





Dates to Remember

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TTOC Committee Meeting

February 18, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97833137147>

Meeting ID: 978 3313 7147

Passcode: 173264

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Executive Committee Meeting

February 23, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99651141987>

Meeting ID: 996 5114 1987

Passcode: 955906

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Professional Issues Committee Meeting

February 24, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99318913066>

Meeting ID: 993 1891 3066

Passcode: 478086

Dial by your location

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