

VESTA WEEKLY

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

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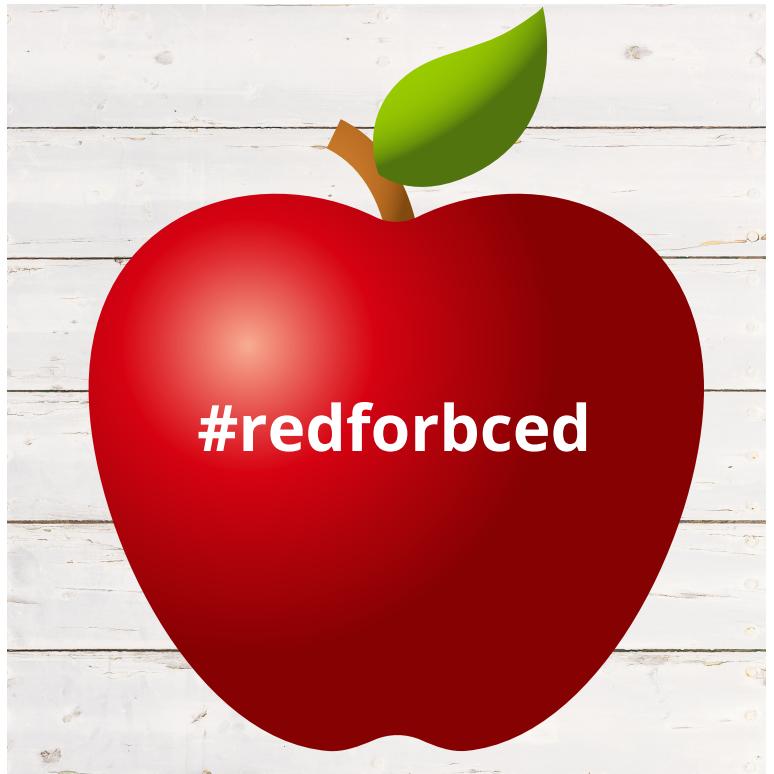
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Friday #RedforBCED

When we decided to re-activate wearing red shirts on Fridays to raise the profile of the need for better protections for teachers, we did so in solidarity with our colleagues in Fraser Health, who are working under significantly increased risk due to COVID-19. This week has seen additional challenges as the variant has been identified in Surrey and Delta schools, and Abbotsford schools were interfering in with windows as part of the school's ventilation systems.

Next Friday, please consider wearing your red in solidarity. Teachers in Surrey have walked outside their schools to raise the profile of concerns with COVID-19 protections in schools. If you are able, taking and posting pictures with the hashtags #RedforBCED and #solidarity or sending those pictures to jody@vesta.ca will assist in sharing our solidarity and our support for all teachers, particularly those in Fraser Health.

New Teachers – WELCOME TO VESTA!

Are you a new teacher? New to teaching in Vancouver? Curious about the inner workings of your new union? If you have answered YES to any of these questions, then we've got an event for you!

Vancouver Elementary Teachers' Association (VESTA) cordially invites you to a 2020-21 New Member Induction on Monday, March 8th 2021 at 4 pm. This will be a virtual event. Perks include a \$20 Skip-the-Dishes gift card and your chance to win some fun door prizes! To RSVP, contact lori@vesta.ca.

BC Teachers' Council

Special Report from BC Teachers' Council member Marjorie Dumont, C'tan. Marjorie is a VESTA member working at Xpey' Elementary and is one of the elected reps for the Vancouver Coastal Zone. Marjorie has been endorsed by VESTA and the BCTF for a second term on the BCTC!

British Columbia Teachers' Council (BCTC) is responsible for setting standards for teachers and educators in B.C., including education, competence and professional conduct requirements; setting standards for post-secondary teacher education programs; and reviewing and approving post-secondary teacher education programs. The Teacher Council has 16 members.

The Teacher Council meeting on February 11-12 (half days), and February 18-19 (half days) were held virtually. Highlights of this meeting are as follows:

1. Profession & Certification Standards Steering Committee (PCSSC) met many times to review the certification standards. The PCSSC also worked on a plan to promote and make an awareness of the new Standard 9 - Educators respect and value the history of First Nations, Inuit and Métis 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 Métis.

Find more information on Professional Standards #1- 9 for BC Educators at:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/teach/teacher-regulation/standards-for-educators/edu_standards_poster-11x17.pdf

2. BCTC Elections – are held every three years. The next election is in spring of 2021. Please make sure your contact information is updated. Certificate holders can only vote or run for election in the zone where they live. One election takes place in each election zone: Fraser Zone, Interior Zone, Northern Zone, Vancouver Coastal Zone, and Vancouver Island Zone.

Find your zone at: <https://teacherregulation.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/Elections.aspx>

3. Howard Kushner, Commissioner, presented The Commissioner for Teacher Regulation Annual Report 2019/2020 on Thursday, February 18, 2021. It was noted the number of complaints has decreased from last year from 88 to 53. A substantial drop and there is no real explanation for the decrease. It may be due to fewer instances of serious misconduct, or there may be a greater reliance on internal complaint resolution.

4. Dialogue with the Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education, on Friday, February 19. Some of the topics raised were antiracism initiatives, integration of Indigenous languages, Truth and Reconciliation, mental health, school meals programs, and childcare integration.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Marjorie Dumont at marjorie@vesta.ca



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Upcoming BCTF AGM

VESTA has elected our delegates to the BCTF AGM, who will be meeting next Tuesday, March 2 to review the decisions that will be considered by the Annual General Meeting, our most sovereign decision-making body. You can read the recommendations and resolutions on the BCTF portal, and your VESTA Local Reps and elected delegates will be in attendance at the March 9 General Meeting to hear your feedback and advice on any matters.

A reminder that the AGM sets the BCTF fee, manages the Short Term and Long Term disability programs, elects the BCTF Executive Committee and determines the policy direction of the Federation.

It's unclear yet whether there will be the ability for members to join the virtual meeting, but we will share any information as it becomes available.

Thank you to all of our delegates, who are volunteering time on their Spring Break to ensure our provincial organization reflects the policy and positions of VESTA members!

Dates to Remember

<p>Adult Educators General Meeting February 27th, 2021 2:30 - 4:30 pm Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/92195247159 Meeting ID: 921 9524 7159 Passcode: 571993 Dial by your location +1 778 907 2071 Canada</p>	<p>Health & Safety Committee Meeting March 1, 2021 @ 4 pm Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/91311168719 Meeting ID: 913 1116 8719 Passcode: 139117 Dial by your location +1 778 907 2071 Canada</p>
<p>Communications Committee Meeting March 4, 2021 @ 4 pm Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/96923369203 Meeting ID: 96923369203 Passcode: 587044 Dial by your location +1 778 907 2071 Canada</p>	 <p>How EFAP Can Help Information to help with work and life Confidential · Immediate Assistance · 24/7/365 Morneau Shepell · 1-844-880-9142 workhealthlife.com</p>