

VESTA WEEKLY

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

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Black Shirt Day

A small action can make a big difference. On January 15th, students and educators across BC will wear black shirts to commemorate the ongoing struggle for civil and human rights fought by Black and racialized Canadians. You can post your Black Shirt Day photos with the hashtag #BlackShirtDay. This event is endorsed by VSB and VESTA. You can find resources to support anti-racist education and education about Black Canadian History and resources at ([antiracism links on VESTA website](#)) and in the image below.

BLACK SHIRT DAY

A BC grassroots initiative | January 15th

Anti-Racism Coalition

Is a grassroots organization striving to end all forms of racial inequity through education, legislation and social events

Addressing historical relevancy

Everything that happens in the past is history. As educators, we have the daunting task of deciding what concepts and stories are the most relevant to our students today. What do they need to face the current challenges of racial injustice? In the past there have been many groups that have used the color black as their emblem. They had their time. Let's make some room at the table for this critical discussion on racism and civil rights.

Sources

All information was taken from the arc.vancouver instagram

A small action can make a big difference. On January 15th, students and educators across BC will wear black shirts to commemorate the ongoing struggle for civil and human rights fought by Black and racialized Canadians.

At ARC we believe Black Shirt Day is an important step in raising greater awareness of the civil rights struggle, and help foster solidarity against all forms of racism and hate.

Post your Black Shirt Day photos on social media using #BlackShirtDay



Instagram: arc.vancouver

We at the Anti-Racism Coalition of Vancouver believe a small action can make a difference. In British Columbia, thousands of students wear pink shirts in support of anti-bullying. Orange Shirt Day has also been introduced across Canadian schools, where students wear orange shirts in solidarity with Indigenous victims of the residential school system.

ARC Vancouver is petitioning for Black Shirt Day to be introduced in BC, in recognition of the struggle for civil rights fought by Black and racialized Canadians. We propose that Black Shirt Day be established on January 15th, the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., the great civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner. We believe this will be an important step in raising greater awareness of the ongoing struggle for civil and human rights faced by Black and racialized Canadians, and help to foster solidarity against all forms of racism and hate.



aoec_bcbipoceducators



Payroll Information

An extensive email was sent to all employees on Monday from Payroll. It was pretty dense, so we wanted to offer a bit more of an in-depth commentary on it.

Matters that may impact your take home pay:

- Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Employment Insurance (EI) deductions are determined as a percentage of your income, but there is also an annual maximum. This means that most members will have reached your maximum contributions prior to December 30. How this looks is that you will have fewer deductions nearer the end of the year, and you may notice that your pay is slightly less in the new year, due to those deductions being activated again.
- There is a small increase in the CPP contribution rates, which may also reduce your take home by a small amount.
- Members have the opportunity to elect to have more or less taxes taken off of your paycheque than required by your income. This would just mean more or less of a refund or taxes owing in the spring

Filing your taxes for the year 2020

- Your T4 will look different, as Canada Revenue Agency has required a change to the T4 form in order to simplify the process of reporting income for those who claimed CERB, or any of the Federal emergency or COVID benefits.
- School Supply Tax Credit Form - Teachers can claim tax credit when you spend personal income on school supplies. It is up to 15% of \$1,000 spent, and requires your administrator's signature. You can find additional information on what can be claimed at CRA
- CRA work from home tax benefit - Teachers working from home for more than 50% over at least 4 weeks can claim a deduction of \$2 per day up to a maximum of \$400 to be deducted for your total income when you file your taxes. You do not need anything to be signed by the VSB. Most teachers will be able to claim this amount for working days between March 30 to May 31 This is not a rebate or refund, but a tax deduction as part of the calculation of your tax return.
- You can receive your T4 electronically through the PeopleSoft employee self-service in mid-February

FSA

Just a reminder that the FSA has been delayed until February this year. BCTF and VESTA continue our advocacy with the new Minister and the VSB to encourage cancellation or suspension of this program, and the honouring of parent opt-out letters.

The BCTF campaign in opposition will begin soon. It is ridiculous that in this year the FSA is scheduled to go ahead, and we are seeking clear instruction about the administration of that test, taking the position that administration options will have an impact on school safety, teacher workload, and seriously undermine any results from the test. Reminder that you can find the FSA information sheet and opt-out form on the VESTA Website [here](#) and [here](#). Information to parents must be addressed and delivered through students in a sealed envelope, and notice must be given to administrators 4 hours ahead of the intended distribution.

BC Teachers' Federation hosts its first

New Teachers' ZOOM Gathering

- An informal, open discussion for teachers with less than 5 years of teaching experience.
- Share ideas, initiatives and resources with new teacher colleagues from across the province.
- Connect with new teachers from your local.

DATE: Wednesday January 27, 2021

TIME: 3:30pm to 4:30pm

REGISTRATION: <https://members.bctf.ca/Event.axd?e=2251>



New Teachers' Zoom Gatherings

The BCTF will be hosting regular New Teachers' Zoom Gatherings. The first one will be January 27 at 3:30PM. The goal is to provide space for new members to meet and chat informally. Please share this information among new members and colleagues.

Members can register at the following link: <https://www.bctf.ca/NewTeachersZoomGathering.aspx>.

BCTF School Liaison Officer research project

The BCTF undertook a research project on policing in schools and determined that there was a significant lack of research that has been completed about the experiences of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) teachers in Canada with regards to the impact of policing in schools. The BCTF has now undertaken a provincial study to centre these voices in a new study.

The BCTF will be appointing two BIPOC members from each of four locals to be co-researchers supporting the new research study that will be available for wider participation by BIPOC teachers across the province. You can [find additional information](#) on the project and the CV form to apply to be a co-researcher [here](#) on the VESTA website. Please share this opportunity widely among BIPOC VESTA members. The deadline for application is January 29, 2021.

Failures to Fill

Thank you so much to all Staff Reps and members who worked so tirelessly to collect and communicate the failures to fill to the VESTA Office on a weekly basis since the fall. The VESTA Office has continued to collate and analyse the information in those forms and they will be of a significant help in our grievances, our application to the LRB Troubleshooter process and in our budget presentation to the VSB for 2021. At this point, we feel that we have sufficient information to proceed, and you no longer need to send those forms to the office, but please continue to keep track of lost service.

Health and Safety

The BCTF has just released a new brief to Minister Jennifer Whiteside on COVID and the necessary priorities and positions being advanced on behalf of teachers. Please take a look at this instructive [document](#) not only because we think you'll see a number of matters relevant to you described there, but also because there are many very clear articulations of the reasons and rationale behind our requests that could be helpful in your conversations with colleagues and the public.

January Dates to Remember



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**Teachers Teaching On Call
Committee Meeting**
January 14,2021 @4:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/91943004244>
Meeting ID: 9194300 244
Passcode: 334253
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

**WLC/B Committee
Meeting**
January 14,2021 @4:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/97985428045>
Meeting ID: 979 8542 8045
Passcode: 873124
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

**General Meeting/
Staff Rep Assembly**
January 19,2021 @4:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82864678930>
Meeting ID: 8286467 8930
Passcode: 700496
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Executive Committee Meeting
January 28,2021 @4:00 PM
Zoom link to follow

**Professional Issues
Committee Meeting**
January 27,2021 @4:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/96738707360>
Meeting ID: 9673870 7360
Passcode: 017214
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

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How EFAP Can Help
Information to help with work and life
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workhealthlife.com

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