

VESTA WEEKLY

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

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February 3-4 SURT

It's time for our second Virtual Staff Union Rep Training of the year, and we're asking Staff Reps to sign up for the session assigned to your school as quickly as possible.

Please attend on the day that your school is scheduled to attend due to the TTOC shortage and planning for the technology needs of the meeting. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this effort.

Given local and global issues, this SURT training will include two components:

- AM - Shanee Prasad, Burnaby Teacher and Anti-Oppressive Educators' Collective Chair will lead a session on anti-racism and anti-oppression on Wednesday
- Angela Ma Brown, Vancouver Mentoring Support Teacher and Education Consultant, will lead a session on Anti-Racism and Active Witnessing on Thursday
- PM - We will work together to explore our Professional Autonomy in Times of COVID - investigating the challenges of asserting our professional judgment and autonomy, and locating and upholding our rights.

BCTF public survey and upcoming Advertising Campaign

As part of the planning for a March Public Education Ad campaign, the BCTF has done some polling of the general public on matters related to education. It affirmed much of what we already know:

- The public places the voices of teachers above all other groups in trustworthiness - why it's important to talk with parents about educational issues!
- There is a high level of support for a mandatory mask mandate
- The public supports reduced class sizes, additional teachers and expanded support for students with special needs
- There is broad public understanding that teachers' workload has been increased by COVID, and that teachers are doing all they can
- There is an increasing awareness of the multiple and broader role that schools play in our communities

Your voice matters. The public trusts teachers and understands that we are working through hard times, and that your work makes a difference.

Provincial Health and Safety

We understand that the provincial K-12 Health and Safety Guidelines will be revised near the start of February. When we have information about the content and changes to that document, we will be sure to communicate those out to members. Please remember that the VESTA website includes information on COVID under the [COVID-19 tab](#) and documents summarizing and supporting understanding of the provincial documents can be found under the [tab Forms and Documents](#). VESTA is continuing to advocate for the full expenditure of the provincial and federal COVID grants to support remote learning and school safety.

School Liaison Officer Review

The Vancouver School Board will be seeking input on the SLO program review. If you wish to be part of the discussions on behalf of VESTA, please complete the [CV form](#) on the VESTA website and submit to allison@vesta.ca by January 29.

If you or your school have input into the SLO review, please send your feedback in an email to jody@vesta.ca



Opportunities at the BCTF

Please remember as well that the opportunity to be a Co-Researcher on the new BCTF project exploring the experiences of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) educators with policing in schools, you can find the [CV for that project here](#). The deadline is January 29 and two VESTA members will be appointed.

There are other [BCTF Opportunities currently open](#) to all members:

- The BCTF Assistance Society
- Grade 6 and 7 teachers to participate as BCTF reps on a Literacy and Numeracy Proficiency Benchmarks committee
- Facilitators for the Parent Presentations workshops

Please see the BCTF website at the link above for deadlines and application processes

BCTF Annual General Meeting March 20-24

We still have 9 positions for members to attend and vote at the 2021 BCTF Annual General Meeting.

The meeting will be held virtually over 4 days. VESTA members who are elected to attend will receive training and preparation for the meeting on an upcoming release day and attend sessions along with the VESTA delegation of 31 members. The BCTF AGM elects your provincial Executive Committee, sets the membership fee, manages the Short Term Disability Plan and sets policy for our public and internal direction. Please contact any of the Local Reps heather@vesta.ca, chloe@vesta.ca anne@vesta.ca if you have questions about attending, and [complete the CV](#).

Provincial Bargaining – Labour Relations Board

This week sees the BCTF bargaining team back at the Labour Relations Board to resolve the three outstanding issues from the previous round of bargaining. The team will be talking with the employer (BCPSEA) and government representatives on improvements to the Provincial Bargaining structure, the replacement of Best Efforts with a meaningful process, the 1% at the top of the grid in year 2, and securing prep time for Adult Educators and some secondary teachers. Stay tuned for updates and send your solidarity to the team!

Failures to Fill

Thank you to members and Staff Reps for submitting weekly forms documenting the failures to fill and loss of service to students. We know that this has taken a lot of time and energy to complete and submit and it's really helped us to build an understanding of the scope and nature of the concerns. Big appreciation to TTOC chair Vanessa Lefebvre for collecting and collating that information. We will ensure that the data informs our discussions with the district and the support our grievance. We understand that some schools are still getting their last notices in, but we will not be collating those forms after this week.

February 12 District Wide Professional Development Date

The VSB is looking for teachers interested in presenting a virtual workshop on February 12. The workshop can be as short as 20 minutes or as long as an hour. If you are interested in presenting, visit the VSB Hub, follow the links for professional development. On the Professional Development page select Promote Your ProD Event and submit your idea. School-based members will be eligible for a half day of release time for planning. If you don't wish to present, but are interested in the available workshops, more information can be found on the HUB site as well. Check out the workshops such as Tools for Assessing Diversity in Texts and/or one of the Keynotes--Kids and Social Media - Saving Our Youth From Tech Giants.

#RedForBCED campaign

Time to dig into your closets and find your red shirts. We're joining Surrey Teachers' Association in bringing back the #RedForBCED campaign. This time it's to call for better safety measures in BC schools. With increased cases & exposures in schools, it is critical that we work collectively in our call for stricter measures.

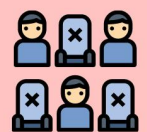
Wear red every and share this campaign with your colleagues. You can post your socially-distanced and masked pictures to social media using the #RedForBCED and tag [@VESTA39](#) & [@BCTF](#) to amplify your message. You can find an infographic for sharing on the VESTA twitter feed and the [VESTA website](#) connecting #RedforBCED with issues important to teachers.

5 REASONS TO WEAR RED

#REDFORBCED



You want a mask mandate in all classrooms



You want smaller classes for physical distancing



You are tired of failures to fill



You were denied accommodations



You don't want to use your sick days to isolate because of a positive case in your classroom



BONUS REASON:

You received a COVID-19 exposure notice from a school and you don't want your next COVID-19 test to be positive

January Dates to Remember



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Executive Committee Meeting
January 28, 2021 @4:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/91742459112>
Meeting ID: 9174245 9112
Passcode: 123084
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

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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