

VESTA WEEKLY

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

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COVID Leave Reminders

If you have a regular illness (cold, flu etc.) and stay home, this comes, as usual, from your sick bank and should be booked using SFE for personal illness.

Our Collective Agreement provides for the use of sick leave with pay for “unavoidable quarantine” in Article G.20.2.a, which is the leave members have been using when self-isolating as per Health Authority direction.

As of Feb 1, in situations where a member is directed by the Health Authority to self-isolate, they are eligible for a new paid leave that does not require the use of sick leave. This leave only applies in cases where the member is asymptomatic. In Coastal Health, written directions to self-isolate are being provided. If you are booking this leave, you will be required to agree that you will return to sick leave if you become symptomatic. **This leave is only for asymptomatic members who are required to self-isolate as a result of a Health Authority direction.**

TTOCs have access to this new leave, but only on days for which they had been previously booked to work.

If a member on the new paid COVID leave becomes symptomatic, or tests positive for COVID-19, they will be required to begin using sick leave again.

The BCTF is continuing to advocate for this leave to be applied retroactively, but at this time, it is being provided on a go-forward basis only. Please watch for further updates.

BC Teachers Council Elections

The BC Teachers' Council is part of the regulatory structures of teachers in British Columbia. They oversee teacher training, the professional standards, and the Professional Conduct Unit (PCU). On the Teachers' Council, there are spots for elected members, and it is essential that we participate in the election of teacher representatives that reflect our values and will effectively speak for teachers. The current rep for Coastal Region is our very own Marjorie Dumont, Resource teacher at Xpey' Elementary.



Marjorie is running for re-election and has been endorsed by VESTA and the BCTF. Starting this week, you will receive an invitation to vote for the Teachers' Council rep for our region and it's important that you exercise your vote to ensure that BCTF maintains our representation on the Council. If you don't receive an email, check your junk mail folder to ensure you haven't missed your chance. Please share!

New Disability Justice Resources

Following the VESTA / Chilliwack Teachers' panel on Crip Camp, we've put together a list of links and resources for your review. They will be posted on the website and sent to panel registrants. Recognizing ableism and acknowledging barriers to full inclusion is an important part of our work and there are so many excellent resources to support teachers' challenging their own learning and ideas about disability, as well links to curriculum and instructional supports. You can find these resources [here](#).

Support for Classroom Density and Vancouver Secondary Teachers

Due to pressure from some parents, the current model in Vancouver Secondary schools has come under scrutiny. Efforts to keep class sizes low and to ensure that density and meaningful remote learning has been successful in the current model at work in Secondary Schools. However, momentum resulting from a desire for increased in-class teaching from some parents has resulted in NDP MLAs regrettably hosting an online forum to share concerns about the instructional hours.

Please consider registering for this online event to support the need for continued attention to lower school density and meaningful remote learning options. You can register here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/inequity-in-instruction-forum-for-vancouver-high-school-families-students-registration-143383312347>

Social Justice in March

This year's theme for International Women's Week, from March 5 to 8, and International Women's Day, on March 8, is Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world. Visit the Status of Women Canada's International Women's Day teacher toolkit and the BCTF Status of Women web pages for lesson plans and resources.

March 21 is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, beginning the Week of Solidarity with People Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination, from March 21 to 27.

On World Water Day, March 22, find resources in English, French, and Spanish to highlight this year's theme, "Valuing Water" in the World Water Day Toolkit and consider booking the BCTF's recently updated Water Rights workshop (coming soon).

On March 25, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, find information and resources on the International Decade for People of African Descent website.

Equal Pay Day, March 24, the approximate date when women's earnings since January 1, 2020 equal that earned by men during the 12 months of 2020, is an important date to highlight in classrooms.

On March 31, the Transgender Day of Visibility, download resources from the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity resources page.

New Teacher Zoom Gathering

The BCTF is creating regular opportunities for new members to connect with each other and with their local and provincial unions, and is offering a New Teachers' Zoom Gathering (NTZG) every month throughout the school year. Our next NTZG will take place on March 10 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. It is a free event where members can meet and chat.

BC Teachers' Federation

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: March 10, 2021
TIME: 3:30pm to 4:30pm
REGISTRATION: <https://members.bctf.ca/Event.axd?e=2257>



To register, visit <https://www.bctf.ca/NewTeachersZoomGathering.aspx>



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Dates to Remember

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

General Meeting/ Staff Rep Assembly

March 9, 2021 @ 4 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81931375234>

Meeting ID: 819 3137 5234

Passcode: 758500

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

TTOC Committee Meeting

March 11, 2021 @ 4 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91207484918>

Meeting ID: 912 0748 4918

Passcode: 628731

Dial by your location

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