

VESTA WEEKLY

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

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VTF Bargaining Team swings into action

Your VESTA reps on the VTF bargaining team have been hard at work reviewing the objectives set by the November 2 General Meeting. Greg Canning, Marjorie Dumont, Vanessa Lefebvre, Karine Ng and Jody Polukoshko are ensuring VESTA voices and experiences are well represented at the bargaining table, along with our colleagues from VSTA, Alyssa Reid, Carmen Schaedeli, John Silver, and Jesse Taylor.

We are bringing 17 proposals forward reflecting the priorities identified by the membership. Our Collective Agreement is the jointly signed document that defines and helps us protect our working conditions and our students' learning conditions. Our first day at the table was November 10 and we have dates set through November, December and January.

The work of the appointed VTF bargaining team is well underway. The team has met to brainstorm, and write language on the objectives ratified at the VTF General Meeting, as well as successfully engaged in two sessions with the Employer. The team has exchanged their full package of proposals with the Employer, and began with preliminary introduction to our language. There has been engaging conversations and questions on proposals from both sides, and we are optimistic we will have a successful round. The team will caucus to review the Employer's package of proposals in depth next Tuesday, November 23, and will meet with the Employer to continue bargaining on November 24. Please feel free to reach out to your local if you have any questions.

Opportunity for Members: BCTF Reps to the Mental Health Regional Listening Sessions

The BCTF is seeking 65 teachers to work with the Ministry of Education to enhance mental health in schools through participation in six regional listening sessions. These sessions will explore learnings regarding mental health and well-being promotion from the COVID-19 pandemic and related response measures. For more information and to apply, visit the [BCTF website](#). Applications are due November 22, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Emergency support for BCTF members

Emergency financial aid for affected BCTF members

Members in financial need can apply to the BCTF Assistance Society to access emergency assistance for cases such as medical emergencies, housing emergencies, local disasters, personal disaster, and family crisis.

Click [here](#) for more information and to access the application form.

Before, during, and after a flood: What you need to know

The Government of BC has a [detailed flood preparedness guide](#) that provides advice and checklists to support planning for members who may be at risk of further flooding and/or alerts and evacuations.

[This page](#) includes links to public safety information and resource pages for other hazards, including landslides, severe weather, and power outages.

Emergency Info BC—flooding updates, road closures, evacuee information

[This page](#) contains the latest updates on the state of flooding in BC, road closures, evacuee registration, and Emergency Support Services Reception Centre locations.

The Government of BC regularly updates [this interactive map](#) with emergency-related information, including *Evacuation Alerts & Orders and Flood Watches & Warnings*.

Mental health support

BC Mental Health Support Line, available 24 hours a day at 310-6789 (no area code)
KUU-US Indigenous Crisis Line at 1-800-588-8717 (toll free, 24/7 support available)
Kids Help Phone: Text CONNECT to 686868

Bursary for the child of a VESTA member

Reminder of the deadline for applications for the \$1,000 Bursary of a child of a VESTA member is coming up on December 3, 2021. The draw will be completed at the December 7 General Meeting. The criteria for application is that the child be a public secondary school graduate and be attending a post-secondary institution during the 2021-2022 school year. Proof of registration must be attached to application.

You can find the application form on the [VESTA website](#), and please submit to hitomi@vesta.ca

Bring forward your motions for the BCTF AGM!

The BCTF's policy and procedures manual is called the [Members' Guide](#). This directs the Federation in how we organize, support members, run our short- and long-term disability plans, support for locals, political action and internal processes. Every spring break, the BCTF brings together about 700 delegates representing the 69 local organizations to determine changes to, or the creation of new policy. If you have ideas about how the BCTF can do better, whether it be on our social justice, bargaining, member support, communications, member outreach or union processes, you can start the process to bring about such change by proposing a motion to our most sovereign decision-making body.

Please complete the form [here](#), which will be reviewed by VESTA's Local Representatives and the VESTA EC, and the final decisions about which motions will go forward to the AGM will be made at the December 7 General Meeting.

Remember that the January meeting will be where we appoint delegates to that meeting – please consider applying if you'd like to be part of that exciting and important decision-making process!

Asian Labour Local and Global Solidarity

Join colleagues and friends in the labour movement December 1 to discuss how class, race, and gender affect Asian workers organizing in settler-colonial states in and outside of Canada, and working towards solidarity and coalition building locally and globally.

This event is being hosted by Asian Canadian Labour Alliance in BC and supported by the Vancouver and District Labour Council.

Register here: <https://asianlabour.eventbrite.ca>





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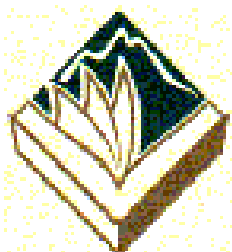
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VESTA

Dates to Remember

Aboriginal Ed Committee Meeting

November 18, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84561493237>

Meeting ID: 845 6149 3237

Passcode: 002764

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Executive

Committee Meeting

November 23, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84778726802>

Meeting ID: 847 7872 6802

Passcode: 989178

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Professional Issues Committee Meeting

November 24, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89544777906>

Meeting ID: 895 4477 7906

Passcode: 548822

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada



VESTA

The Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association is the union representing elementary teachers and adult educators working in public schools in Vancouver.