

VESTA WEEKLY

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



2021 VTF bargaining team L-R back row: Carmen Schaedeli, Jesse Taylor, John Silver, Alyssa Reid (VSTA), Karine Ng, Greg Canning (VESTA) front row: Marjorie Dumont, Vanessa Lefebvre, Jody Polukoshko (VESTA)

IN THIS ISSUE

2021 VTF bargaining team - Page 1

VESTA office welcomes Karine Ng - Page 2

VESTA Mentorship Fund - Page 2

Bursary deadline fast approaching - Page 2

**Looking for gift ideas? Consider Café Etico!
- Page 2**

Teacher Pension Plan workshops - Page 3



This week saw additional days of caucus prep and at the bargaining table with the employer. We are currently discussing improvements to the post and fill process as well as rights for part time teachers. We have dipped our toes into canvassing matters connected to space and facilities, layoff and recall, and Access to Information. Discussions so far have had momentum and have been respectful, and your team is hard at work ensuring the best representation possible for all members.

The VESTA Office welcomes Karine Ng

The VESTA Executive Committee made the decision this week to release EC member Karine Ng to join the VESTA In House Team two days a week in January for the remainder of the school year. This is in part to acknowledge the high level of requests for support from members, the beginning of local bargaining, Jody's role on the BCTF Executive Committee and Marjorie's role on the BC Teachers' Council. Karine will be working alongside Joanne, Darren, Marjorie, Allison, Jody and Rob to ensure member needs are met and that the larger advocacy and activist work of the union continues, strong as ever.

VESTA Mentorship Fund

Thank you for your patience in the provision of VESTA mentorship funds. The response has been overwhelming this past month, and we are processing applications this week. Please watch your email for responses.

If you are considering applying, please ensure that you are completing all aspects of the form including your mentorship partners and the number of days requested. Reminder that the VESTA Mentorship fund is created for VESTA members to collaborate with one another in mentorship relationships. If you are seeking funds or release time to support self-directed professional development or an inquiry project, please speak to your school Professional Development Committee or consider applying for Temporary Supplemental funds through the district process here.

Bursary deadline fast approaching

This is the final reminder that the deadline for applications for the \$1,000 Bursary for a Child of a VESTA member is coming up on December 3, 2021. The draw will be completed at the December 7 General Meeting. Criteria for application is as follows:

- VESTA member in good standing
- The member's child is a public secondary school graduate
- The child is attending a post-secondary institution during the 2021-22 school year

Proof of registration must be attached to the application. You can find the application on the [VESTA website](#). Please submit to hitomi@vesta.ca

Looking for gift ideas? Consider Café Etico!

VESTA is a partner with Codevelopment Canada, who support the distribution of Café Etico. [Café Etico](#) is a non-profit cooperative that supports responsible, socially just and environmentally friendly coffee farming and production. Farmers are guaranteed a minimum price, and are entitled to payment when orders are placed, reducing reliance on loans or exploitative middlemen. Café Etico is excellent coffee that support direct trade from Latin American farmers to non-profits in Canada. Because a large part of their business is supporting unions, who have been holding fewer in-person meetings, the non-profit is struggling. VESTA encourages you to consider Café Etico for any holiday gift or donation ideas.

Teacher Pension Plan workshops

There are Virtual Pension Seminars available for members through three groups this year.

1. BC Pension Corporation

[Getting to know your pension](#) is a 15-minute online introduction of the Teachers' Pension Plan.

[Making the most of your pension](#) is a presentation for the mid-career member and will answer all their pension questions. It can be experienced either as a 45-minute online interactive video or as an instructor-led webinar.

[Approaching retirement](#) is a presentation for those within five years of retirement to discuss pension options, the retirement application process, and returning to work after a member has started collecting a pension. It can also be experienced either as a 45-minute online course or as an instructor-led webinar.

2. BC Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA)

The BCRTA's pre-retirement workshop is available via Zoom. The BCRTA may be contacted [here](#) to register for a workshop.

Workshop dates for 2021-22 include:

November 24, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

January 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

January 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

February 16, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

March 2, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

April 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

April 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

May 11, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

May 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

May 25, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

June 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

3. BC Teachers' Federation pension staff

BCTF Staff is available to present a full pension seminar via Zoom to members of your local in the new year. Please email jody@vesta.ca if you are interested in booking a BCTF Pension Workshop – if there is sufficient interest, we will communicate date and time through the VESTA Weekly.





Joanne Sutherland
President
joanne@vesta.ca

Allison Jambor
Vice President
allison@vesta.ca

Darren Tereposky
Vice President
darren@vesta.ca

Marjorie Dumont
Vice President
marjorie@vesta.ca

Jody Polukoshko
Vice President
jody@vesta.ca

Rob McGowan
AE President
rob@vesta.ca

Office:
604-873-8378
Fax:
604-873-2652
www.vesta.ca



Dates to Remember

Working & Learning Conditions/Bargaining Committee Meeting

November 30, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85874808581>

Meeting ID: 858 7480 8581

Passcode: 658047

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.