

VESTA WEEKLY

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



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Post and Fill Workshop

Please remember that the post and fill workshop is coming up in the first week of May. If you have questions about school organization, please talk with your Staff Rep or bring it up at a VESTA meeting. Remember that the ability to provide feedback and input to the Principal on school organization is enabled through the Staff Committee language.

Due to the fact that Vancouver is anticipating declining enrolment for the 2022/2023 school year, there may be surplusing at some school sites. Remember that surplusing is done by district seniority, not by the grade level where the decrease is anticipated. This may mean that teachers will be reassigned within the school. While the School Act gives the school Principal the ability to organize the school, it's important we exercise our rights to have input to the greatest degree possible.

The process is:

- VESTA members meet and discuss school organization and the fair allocation of available assignments
- Vote on any recommendations and seek consensus where possible
- Do not make recommendations to reduce members overall FTE
- Seniority is a fair and equitable way to organize staffing
- Make recommendations to the Administrator at Staff Committee Meeting

Please remember that the budget has not yet been set, and as such, staffing is not finalized. It's important to keep in mind that staffing and school organization is a stressful time, and many teachers may find the possibility of being assigned to a new grade or assignment challenging. Approaching these discussions thoughtfully and with care is important and part of our collegiality.

Staff Reps are invited to attend a more in-depth workshop on May 4 and 5 (please check email for registration information). Due to the district's position on availability of TTOCs and the requirement to notify our training days in advance of the year, we are unable to accommodate date switches.



Professional Standards for BC Educators

As part of the work towards Truth and Reconciliation within our profession, the Teachers' Council has implemented a new Professional Standard that requires each of us to consider the role of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people in our curriculum and to recognize that, as the majority of teachers are settlers, that our work includes advancing Aboriginal ways of knowing and being, cultures and histories. In some cases, this means working to understand that Western, European ideas about education, learning, and representations of history have been biased, and to recognize that many of the symbols, values and heroes embedded in our practices have deep roots in colonialism and the erasure of local and global Indigenous experience.

9. Educators respect and value the history of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada and the impact of the past on the present and the future. Educators contribute towards truth, reconciliation and healing. Educators foster a deeper understanding of ways of knowing and being, histories, and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

Educators critically examine their own biases, attitudes, beliefs, values and practices to facilitate change. Educators value and respect the languages, heritages, cultures, and ways of knowing and being of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Educators understand the power of focusing on connectedness and relationships to oneself, family, community and the natural world. Educators integrate First Nations, Inuit and Métis worldviews and perspectives into learning environments.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/teach/teacher-regulation/standards-for-educators/edu_standards.pdf

Although we are not connected to the Graduation requirements in the same way as our secondary colleagues, Elementary teachers have a great deal of insight into the role of curriculum in Truth and Reconciliation, and may also be parents of secondary aged children. If you haven't yet participated in the engagement process on the new Indigenous-focused graduation requirement, you have until April 22 to have your say.

You will have the opportunity to provide feedback on which courses could meet the new requirement as well as what resources and information students, families and schools will need moving forward.

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/IndigenousGradRequirement>

April 19 General Meeting – future of the VESTA Office

The upcoming General Meeting will be an important meeting to attend, in order to learn more about the VESTA / VSTA building. As you know, discussions have been underway for years regarding the upgrade of the building at 2915 Commercial Drive.

We are set to vacate the office prior to the start of next school year, and efforts have been underway to secure a temporary office space while renovations are underway. Due to a variety of factors, including the cost and limited availability of adequate leased office space, the VESTA Executive has approved the purchase of a new office space, subject to the agreement of the VESTA General Membership.

The new building cost is less than our share of the 2915 Commercial building, and provides us with greater options for current and future membership, and is well within the scope of VESTA's strong financial position.

Please attend the General Meeting to find out more and to vote on this important decision. Your Staff Rep has received an email with greater detail and will likely be reaching out to hear input from school staff.

School Visits late April

The VESTA Executive will be reaching out to Staff Reps next week to set up virtual School Visits. The purpose of these visits is to listen to member concerns and to provide updates on Provincial Bargaining. Due to the tight schedule of visits, Staff Reps will be contacted with a date and a time, before school, at lunch, and after school, and are hoping for about 30 minutes of members' time.

Your input and engagement is key to making VESTA a stronger union that represents members effectively and transparently. Participation is challenging during this time of COVID, but we hope to see members at these meetings and to continue to learn and grow together.

Thank you to Eric Proulx, VESTA EC member and co-chair of the Social Justice and Solidarity Committee for his work on preparing the School Visits!

Hug The Mountain

Join us for the biggest hug in BC

Join together **Saturday, May 7**
(Mother's Day weekend) to stand
against the Trans Mountain Pipeline
Expansion and protect the planet!

We will assemble in a human chain,
circling Burnaby Mountain in a hug, to
convey a powerful message of shared
concern for our Mother Earth.

Bring your family and friends & join others in
this movement inspired by other iconic
human chains in history & around the world.



To learn more and sign up for The Hug visit: www.hugthemountain.ca



Climate change is happening and we are in a crisis that demands drastic reductions in use of fossil fuels. We must stop building new fossil fuel infrastructure. The Trans Mountain Expansion will increase global emissions. It is the opposite of what scientists and health experts have been ever more urgently advising for years and undermines Canada's commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement.

On May 7, let's gather to sound our collective message
of NO MORE PIPELINES!
Show the mountain some love!

HUG the Mountain Rally

Thank you to VESTA Members who attended last weekend's rally in support of Tseil-Waututh Nation's Sacred Trust along with the BCTF Executive Committee, VESTA retirees, students, teacher colleagues from other locals and community organizers.

On Mothers' Day weekend, there is another opportunity to show solidarity with Tsleil-Waututh people against the Trans Mountain pipeline and its' impact on the Inlet and Burnaby Mountain. Join with other activists to "Hug the mountain" Learn more at www.hugthemountain.ca or scan the QR code in the poster!

VSB Advanced Health and Safety Training

VSB is providing a full day session for members (new and continuing) of school based Health and Safety Committee Members who missed the training session last October and November.

Sessions are April 28 and May 3 and topics include resources, harassment, violence, refusal of unsafe work, ventilation and incident investigation.

Register on the VSB Pro-D portal site: <https://prod.vsb.bc.ca/> under Health and Safety.

April 14 Hilton Metrotown Rally



Tomorrow (Thursday, April 14), locked out Hilton Metrotown workers are holding a rally at 5 pm outside the Hilton at 6083 McKay Ave. in Burnaby. This is the one year anniversary of their lockout, and the Unite Here workers are seeking support to demonstrate that they are not giving up, and are continuing to demand their rights as workers to their jobs back.

Please join us and our co-workers on Thursday, April 14th on the 1-year anniversary of the lockout.

Where: Hilton Metrotown, 6083 McKay Ave., Burnaby

When: Thursday, April 14th at 5 pm

RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/4663174537124406>

Let's send a strong message to the Hilton Metrotown and stand in solidarity with our siblings



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Mask Distribution

VESTA will be making the N95 masks available for pick up in the back parking lot of the VESTA office on **Wednesday, April 20th between 8 and 4:30.**

Please communicate together and designate a member who can do pick up and distribution at the school to ensure fewer contacts at the office and accurate delivery!

TTOCs who do not receive a N95 mask through their school will be able to pick one up at the VESTA office on that same day and time.

Dates to Remember

TTOC

Committee Meeting

April 13, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83261326466>

Meeting ID: 832 6132 6466

Passcode: 357463

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

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Newly Scheduled General Meeting/ Staff Rep Assembly

April 19, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83089992866>

Meeting ID: 830 8999 2866

Passcode: 391392

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.