

# VESTA WEEKLY

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

TTOC APPRECIATION WEEK  
MAY 2-6, 2022

WE  TTOCs



WE SUPPORT AND APPRECIATE OUR BC TTOCS

## Table of CONTENTS

TTOC Appreciation Week - Page 2

Teaching Certificate fee deadline - Page 2

MMIWG - Page 3

New Building! New Name? - Page 4

Ministry Anti-Racism Teaching Guide Project - Page 4

Provincial Bargaining - Page 5

5 days of sick leave for TTOCs - Page 5

April 28 Day of Mourning - Page 6

Moose Hide Campaign Day - May 12, 2022 - Page 7

## **TTOC Appreciation Week**

The week of May 2-6 is when we intentionally take the time to acknowledge the contribution TTOCs make to the profession. A high degree of flexibility, adaptability, compassion, social-emotional literacy and professional judgement is required to be an effective teacher. It is even more so for TTOCs, who face uncertainties, instability and job/income insecurity on a regular basis. They step up to the challenge when classroom teachers are unable to learn with their students. They step in to release staff reps and members to do the important work of the union. While we grapple with high living costs, changing conditions due to the pandemic, teacher shortages and failures of fill, dedicated TTOCs continue to show up. Let's celebrate our solidarity by making an effort next week. Some ideas:

- Take a moment to welcome a TTOC to your school community
- Include a message of appreciation during your school's daily announcements
- Write a special note to the TTOC who will be covering your class

The VESTA thanks you, TTOCS, for your work and dedication. Please stay tuned for emails to future TTOC committee meetings and a TTOC Spring Social!

---

## **Teaching Certificate fee deadline**

This is a reminder that members on various types of leaves may need to pay their own fees. After May 31, late fees apply. And if the teacher doesn't pay by November 1st, their certificate may be cancelled. If their certificate is cancelled, it may be very difficult to get re-certified because certification requirements have changed over time, and they may have to do additional coursework in order to be eligible for current certification criteria. If you are on a medical leave, or are in contact with teachers on medical or other leaves, please support them with reminders about their very important certification.

For members who are working, your certification fees are automatically deducted by the district.

Here is the website with more information on fees

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/teach/maintain/annual-practice-fee>

Remember also that your \$80 Certification fees can be claimed on your taxes above and beyond the union dues reported on your T4

## **MMIWG**

Throughout the ages, all societies have taken care to ensure the safety of the members of their communities. And yet, still today, the World Health Organization reports that 35% of women worldwide will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, this figure reflecting only violence that is reported.

In Canada, statistics show that Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than any other women in Canada. According to Statistics Canada, between 2001 and 2015, homicide rates for Indigenous women were nearly six times higher than for non-Indigenous women. A risk of such magnitude requires us all to take responsibility, to clearly identify the issue and to take strong measures to address this situation, which is rooted in Canada's historical and political context.

Violence against Indigenous women and girls does not stem from one isolated event. Sadly, it is the daily reality of far too many human beings, many of whom are among this country's most vulnerable. Today, we have the opportunity to highlight the extraordinary resilience of Indigenous women and girls, who remain dedicated to advocating for their rights and charting a path forward – a path we must all take together. We wish to honourably acknowledge victims and give families the opportunity to finally be able to give their children a better future.

The present can only be understood in relation to the past: we must know our past, understand it and accept it, if the future is to have meaning. We now need to go further and put forward a true social blueprint that will enable the country to adequately address this

major social issue and break through this impasse. All our efforts will have led to identifying the solutions, means and actions needed to bring about this movement. Every Canadian can and must become involved at their own level if things are to change. Together, we have a duty to take effective measures to prevent and put an end to violence against Indigenous women and girls and ensure their safety.

**"Reclaiming Power and Place"** Commissioner Michele Audet



## **New Building! New Name?**

VESTA has received support from the General Meeting to proceed with the offer to purchase unit 410, 2238 Yukon Street. Thank you to all Staff Reps who brought questions and concerns to the General Meeting on behalf of their colleagues. Our timelines for finalization of the deal are coming quickly and we are hoping to get construction on the office space started immediately. While we are optimistic that the construction will be timely, it may be unlikely that we will be able to completely move offices as planned for the start of the school year. Updates will be provided on the regular.

There is also a motion coming to the VESTA Annual General Meeting to change our name to VEAES – Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educators Society – our previous name change was declined by the Societies Act. Their position was that the name was required to include “Society” or “Association” and so we are focusing on the name change to include VESTA’s Adult Educators in our name.



## **Ministry Anti-Racism Teaching Guide Project**

VESTA reminds members that the BCTF is seeking 10 members with a background in developing teaching and learning materials to work with BC Ministry of Education and Childcare on developing and creating Antiracism teaching resources.

The deadline is coming up fast, and we encourage BIPOC members to apply by May 2, 2022 at 5pm.

Criteria and more details can be found at the following link:

<https://www.bctf.ca/whats-happening/news-details/2022/04/12/ministry-anti-racism-teaching-guide-project>

## **Provincial Bargaining**

You'll be interested to know that now that the proposals have been tabled by both the BCTF and BCPSEA, discussions on the particular proposals advanced by the membership can begin. As always, our bargaining takes place in the context of broader public sector negotiations. It can be instructive to be following the progress at other public sector union tables and supporting the membership of those unions.

Remember that British Columbia has a significant deficit, and please do not be fooled by government's messaging about inflation. Public sector wages increasing actually has a positive impact on the economy, and particularly doesn't drive current inflation pressures. Public sector unions and workers should feel confident asking for appropriate wage increases, and BC can afford to support that!

In the past round, a substantial majority of public sector workers had wage increases well below the 3.4% average inflation rates has resulted in effective wage cuts for most workers since the start of the pandemic.

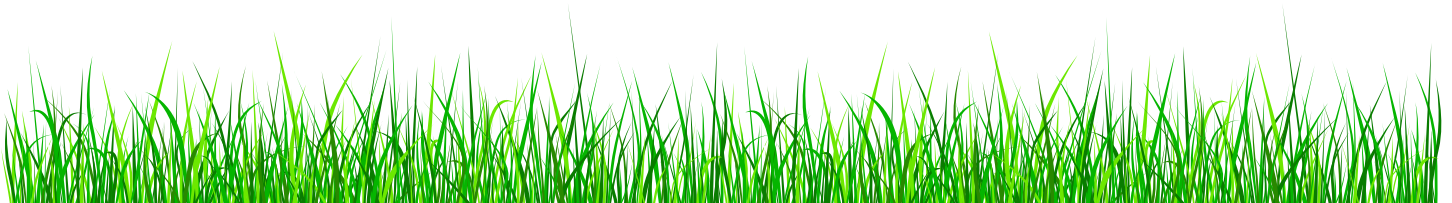
---

## **5 days of sick leave for TTOCs**

You will recall the recent success resulting from coordinated advocacy by the labour movement to ensure all workers, including those working under a Collective Agreement, have rights to the 5 days of sick leave. For teachers, it was our TTOC colleagues who were excluded from this new right in the Employment Standards Act. The BCTF had both filed grievances on the matter.

This applies to TTOCs who do not already have access to at least these many days, and those who have been an employee for at least 90 consecutive days. To be clear, this does not mean 90 days of service, but 90 days as an employee without being laid off or terminated, and includes both part time and full time employees.

If you are a TTOC and need to access a sick day, please cancel your SFE job and select the reason for cancellation as "illness-personal", and then email [leaves@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:leaves@vsb.bc.ca) to advise them you are sick and would like to access one of your sick leave days. They will ensure that you receive pay for that day for the period of the leave (day, half day, etc.) and the average day's pay.



## **April 28 Day of Mourning**

The National Day of Mourning honours the memory of workers who have been killed, injured, or suffered illness caused by their work. This is one of the most sacred days on our calendar.

Day of Mourning events will take place in communities around the province. You can find a full list of events across BC at <https://www.dayofmourning.bc.ca/>.

We encourage friends, colleagues and members to attend an event near you. Once again, we can be together in grief, condolence and solidarity.

The BC Federation of Labour is co-sponsoring the Vancouver Day of Mourning with the WCB, the Business Council of BC, and the Vancouver and District Labour Council.

This year we are gathering in person to mark this important event. As we continue to deal with another wave of COVID-19, it is a reminder of the dangers facing working people.

**The BC Federation of Labour event will be live-streamed at**  
<https://www.dayofmourning.bc.ca/>.

We'll mourn the dead and fight for the living. That means we recommit to our efforts to protect the safety and well-being of working people by:

- improving workplace health and safety;
- rigorously enforcing occupational health and safety regulations – and holding those who violate them to account;
- preserving the dignity of the thousands of workers who suffer injury or illness; and
- ensuring full compensation to those who have been hurt at work.

Together, we'll do all we can to reach the goal we all share: a province where every worker can go home safe and healthy at the end of every workday.



## Moose Hide Campaign Day – May 12, 2022

Moose Hide Campaign Day is a day of ceremony. It's a day where all Canadians are called to join together to take a stand against violence towards women and children and to take practical steps for our collective journey of reconciliation. To find more information please go to the Moose Hide Campaign website.

<https://moosehidecampaign.ca/>



MOOSE HIDE  
CAMPAIGN  
CAMPAGNE  
MOOSE HIDE

# Moose Hide Campaign Day

May 12, 2022



**TAKE ACTION. HELP END  
VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN.**

**Join us** online on **May 12, 2022** to support reconciliation and help end violence against all women and children.

On **Moose Hide Campaign Day**, hear from inspiring speakers and workshop facilitators, take part in ceremony and the **#FastToEndViolence**. Wear and share the moose hide pin and organize events in your organization, university, school or community.

**Join us and register early at [moosehidecampaign.ca](https://moosehidecampaign.ca)**

Register here



Email: [info@moosehidecampaign.ca](mailto:info@moosehidecampaign.ca)  
Phone: +1 (250) 882 7018

Address: 209 -1100 Admirals Rd,  
Victoria, BC, V9A 2P6





**Joanne Sutherland**  
President  
[joanne@vesta.ca](mailto:joanne@vesta.ca)

**Allison Jambor**  
Vice President  
[allison@vesta.ca](mailto:allison@vesta.ca)

**Darren Tereposky**  
Vice President  
[darren@vesta.ca](mailto:darren@vesta.ca)

**Marjorie Dumont**  
Vice President  
[marjorie@vesta.ca](mailto:marjorie@vesta.ca)

**Jody Polukoshko**  
Vice President  
[jody@vesta.ca](mailto:jody@vesta.ca)

**Rob McGowan**  
AE President  
[rob@vesta.ca](mailto:rob@vesta.ca)

**Office:**  
604-873-8378  
**Fax:**  
604-873-2652  
[www.vesta.ca](http://www.vesta.ca)



## Dates to Remember

### **Social Justice & Solidarity Committee Meeting**

May 3, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86161027359>

Meeting ID: 861 6102 7359

Passcode: 427846

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada



### **WLC/B Committee Meeting**

May 3, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84312666995>

Meeting ID: 843 1266 6995

Passcode: 036874

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.