

VESTA WEEKLY

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



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VTF General Meeting Ratification Vote

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 will be an opportunity for all Vancouver Teachers to meet together, learn about, and ratify the VSB / VTF Local Matters Agreement. This is the result of the local bargaining session that took place in the fall and winter. The VESTA Executive and the VESTA General Meeting have endorsed the agreement, and it has already been ratified by the VSB Trustees.

This agreement is one part of how we bargain- the provincial table is working right now to achieve improvements on the matters that are negotiated provincially, including class size, composition, workload, paid leaves, professional development, benefits and other cost-related matters. The BCTF is providing regular updates on the progress and discussions at the table, and all proposals are now posted on the BCTF portal.

You are likely aware of the events taking place at the BCGEU, HEU, HSA and CUPE tables, these are the public sector unions who typically are first at the table with government. It's really important that these unions, who are setting the stage for our own negotiations, are supported by teachers in our communities and their workplaces.

Please put May 24 in your calendar and bring a friend. The meeting is virtual and a one-item agenda. There will be a presentation by the two VESTA and VSTA lead negotiators, to be followed by a Q&A session, and then a vote. Voting will be by Simply Voting and you can find the link to the event at the end of this VESTA Weekly. All members will receive an email late at night on the 23rd with your voting link. If you do not receive one, please email jody@vesta.ca prior to noon on Tuesday.

When the provincial table is concluded, an additional, provincial ratification meeting will be held, and then VESTA will work with the BCTF and the VSB to pull together all changes made at the local and the provincial tables.

Retirement Dinner

VESTA has had to postpone the last 2 years of the dinner where we honour VESTA retirees. As a result, this year we will be holding two events to honour this year's retirees, and those who retired during the pandemic. This beautiful annual event is held at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club and features an opportunity for retiring members to share memories and salient moments in their career, as well as a spectacular view and an excellent dinner.

This year, to acknowledge that not all members may be ready to attend an in-person dinner, VESTA is offering an alternative, to receive instead a gift card for the Sequoia Group restaurants (Carderos, the Teahouse at Stanley Park, Sandbar, and Seasons in the Park) or the Recipe Unlimited Group (Milestones, Montana's, the Keg, Bier Markt and more)

If you have retired in the past two years, please watch your email for this choice offer and information about registering for the dinner.

VESTA's Annual General Meeting

Last Tuesday's meeting, held in person at Van Dusen gardens was well attended. BCTF President Teri Mooring provided a welcome and update on bargaining at the provincial table. VESTA members carried a budget for the coming year that contemplates our building move, bargaining, and the sustainability of the union.

We elected our Executive Committee for the coming year and there are still a couple of EC seats vacant. Our by-laws allow the EC to appoint to those positions between Annual General Meetings, so if you're interested in putting your name forward for one of those vacant EC positions, please complete a CV form:

<https://vesta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Nomination-Form-2022-23-online-RE-1.pdf>

and reach out to an EC member if you have questions about the role!

Our EC has a number of new members and a number of returning members, and we know we're going to face the year ahead with solidarity and strength. Thank you again for all members who participated in our listening sessions over the past weeks and completed our surveys!

Please congratulate the **2022-2023 Executive Committee:**

President: Jody Polukoshko

Vice-President: Marjorie Dumont

Vice-President/Grievance Officer: Darren Tereposky

Vice-President: Karine Ng

Vice-President: Vanessa Lefebvre

Vice-President: Eric Proulx

Secretary-Treasurer: Glen Hansman

Local Association Representatives to the BCTF: 4 VESTA LRs

(1 of which will be a VESTA Adult Educator to be elected at the Adult Ed AGM)

Chloe McKnight, Natasha Burditt, Samuel Couture, and Alexandra de Montigny

Designated position for a member who identifies as having First Nations, Inuit, or

Metis ancestry: Bernadette Milton

Designated position for a member who identifies as a person of colour: vacant

3 general member at large positions: Heather Allison, Liam Patterson-Morris and Joanne Sutherland

Aboriginal Education Committee Chairperson: Jennifer Sebastian

Communication Committee Chairperson: vacant

Health & Safety Committee Chairperson: Danielle Durant

Professional Issues Committee Chairperson: Sylvia Jackson

Social Justice & Solidarity Committee: (5 positions) Elaine Ong

TTOC Committee Chairperson: vacant

Working & Learning Conditions / Bargaining Committee Chairperson: vacant

And congratulations to Karin Bernauer, Donna Brack, and Dawn MacMillan, who were all made VESTA Honourary Life Members as a result of their career-long contributions and commitment to our union!

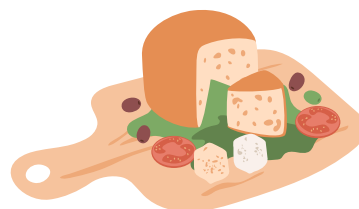


Spring TTOC News

On May 6, TTOCs from VSTA and VESTA gathered for an in-person social, sponsored by a grant provided by the BCTF to celebrate TTOC Appreciation Week May 2-6. Over drinks and appetizers, we chatted about **working conditions, bargaining, union structures, upcoming AGMs and elections, and even the labour movement**. We were most delighted to finally be able to meet each other in person! Attendees can claim their door prizes at the AGM on May 17, or from the VESTA office after that.

More prizes will be raffled at the remaining TTOC committee meeting held virtually on June 15, at 4pm. Stay tuned for the email invitation to connect with your colleagues and for a chance to win a gift card!

TTOC Appreciation Week



Universal School Food for BC

A group of organizers in East Vancouver called the Single Mothers' Alliance is asking for participation from parents and caregivers on their experiences of the accessibility of East Vancouver school food programs.

The event is focused on low-income parents and caregivers and has virtual and in-person options, honouraria and hot meal provided to participants. Please see details at this link!

<https://www.singlemothersbc.org/>

VESTA feedback on Wellness

Due to challenges with the website, members may not have been able to access the letter VESTA compiled based on member feedback through General Meetings and emails. The letter has been forwarded to Senior Management and the Wellness consultation process, and has resulted in a number of meetings already. Please read and share VESTA's position on wellness programs with members at your school to further the discussion.

We are working on the website, so we cannot provide a clickable link, but you can copy and paste this link:

<https://vesta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/VESTA-Wellness-consultation-feedback.pdf> to read the report

Youth Violence

If you have been following along with the news reporting on youth violence in our communities, it's been upsetting to see media locate the source of issues within the removal of School Liaison Officers. We know, as teachers, that the challenges our students are facing are due to returning to schools after a pandemic and the profound lack of services available to students. Over the years, we have seen a significant reduction in supports for students that are embedded in schools and relate to student mental health and community support. Defunding and de-designation of students, underfunding for youth and family workers, family advancement workers, social workers, school nurses, teacher counsellors, SLPs, school psychologists, learning support teachers and full time librarians results in a decrease in integrated support to students and families in ways that acknowledged learning and behavioural challenges. It's disingenuous for the media to imply that policing in schools had been the panacea for this serious issue that needs careful and thoughtful attention, not the criminalizing of students whose issues remain unaddressed.

Pro-D sessions upcoming

The Joint District Professional Development Committee will be holding half-day sessions for Pro-D chairs and administrators on May 25 and June 1 in the morning. Each school's pro-d chair should register for one of these sessions.

If the chair is unable to attend, another member of the school-based Pro-D Committee should attend instead. Please contact patricia@vesta.ca or sylvia@vesta.ca if you have any questions.

Unite Here Rally.

Last Friday, the last remaining Unite Here 40 local on strike held a rally that was very well attended by unions and community supporters. Organizers appreciated both the BCTF and VESTA presence at the event, and we were able to show our solidarity and support for workers taking a stand for better working conditions. Unite Here local 40 has been on strike for over one year, and is a union largely comprised of Women of Colour. The Metrotown Hilton local signed a collective agreement last week and the outstanding hotel is the Pacific Gateway Hotel in Richmond.





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Dates to Remember

Aboriginal Education Committee Meeting

May 19th, 2022 @ 4 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83964643893>

Meeting ID: 839 6464 3893

Passcode: 391392

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

VTF GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 24th, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86506492315?
pwd=Tk5pUnlkZXZuTW00Q1dmbHBPY2FDUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86506492315?pwd=Tk5pUnlkZXZuTW00Q1dmbHBPY2FDUT09)

Meeting ID: 865 0649 2315

Passcode: 410196

Executive Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 24th, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88568645482>

Meeting ID: 885 6864 5482

Passcode: 049760

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.