

VESTA WEEKLY

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



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We have a new name!

In May, VESTA voted in a by-law change to our name – and yesterday afternoon, the Registrar of the Societies Act approved our change of name. We are now VEAES (pronounced like “Vase”). This change was made for three reasons: Because our local represents Adult Educators who were not captured by our previous name, the fact that not all of our members are Teachers (Many SLPs do not hold teaching certificates, but are members of our bargaining unit and BCTF members), and because we are governed by the Societies Act, and it is helpful to have this identified in our name.

We'll be undertaking the next steps now that approval is complete, including the creation of a new logo and replacing our name on letterhead, website, and other markers. This will take time, but watch for the progress of our new, more inclusive identity!



Call for participants: 15th Trinational Conference in Oaxaca, Mexico

The BCTF is supporting eight teachers from the general membership to take part in the 15th Trinational Conference on October 7–9, 2022, in Oaxaca, Mexico. The Trinational Coalition brings together activists from teacher unions in Canada, Mexico, and the United States to work together on issues related to the impact of neo-liberal policies on public education. To learn more and to apply, [click here](#).

Student Valedictorians speak about learning during COVID

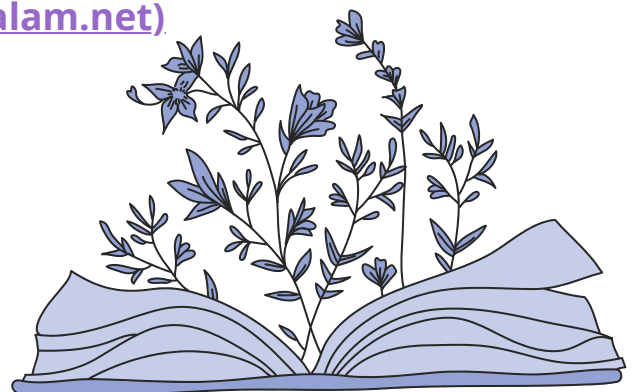
“Instead of talking about, ‘Oh it was difficult,’ I say we’ve all been through some rough waters, the river of life has capsized our canoes, we’re in swirling waters and maybe have lost a paddle or two along the way, but we still made it through, no matter what.” – Important words from a local valedictorian, sharing their experiences. Take a minute to read the words of these students, supported by their peers to speak, and remember our important role in their development.

[Metro Vancouver valedictorians address graduates in person again | Vancouver Sun](#)

City Poems Contest

Vancouver’s newest Poet Laureate, Fiona Tinwei Lam has just closed her poetry contest, and one of the finalists was a student from Vancouver’s Tecumseh Elementary. The criteria for the contest included deepening, broadening or enriching understanding of the origins and/or multifaceted history of Vancouver, and be related to a historical, cultural, and/or ecological site within what is now known as Vancouver. We wanted to give a shout out to students who participated in this amazing project!

[City Poems Contest – Fiona Tinwei Lam \(fionalam.net\)](#)



Pride Month is a time for celebration and solidarity.

The BCTF is a proud and strong ally of queer and trans youth—no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity. As a union that represents more than 60 local unions and 49,000 members across the province, we are committed to ensuring LGBTQ2S+ children and youth are safe, welcome, and know that teachers in their school support them. For many years, the BCTF has been developing resources and workshops as well as supporting human rights and court cases to ensure our schools are safe and inclusive places for queer and trans students and staff.

The BCTF is also deeply committed to the hard work of improving our structures to make our union more inclusive and equitable for all members, especially those from equity-seeking groups who continue to experience marginalization in their workplaces, union, and communities. We have established working groups and issue sessions for members who identify as Black, Indigenous, and people of colour, as well as LGBTQ2S+, to better inform our work as a union.

This Pride Month and throughout the summer, we hope teachers across BC participate in events and show solidarity and support for LGBTQ2S+ students, colleagues, and community members.



Watch for VESTA's ad in the Vancouver Pride Magazine this summer!



Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association

Vancouver Elementary School Teachers and Adult Educators stand in solidarity with 2SLGBTQIA+ and all equity-seeking students and staff.

Schools need to be safe not just for working and learning, but for self-identification, self-determination, equitable opportunities for representation.

Let's keep transforming our schools into accessible, healthy, intersectional spaces for all workers and learners!



Post and Fill

Round 2 of postings are out now! For members who have been surplused, please continue to apply for positions. The district can start placing members into positions as of June 15.

- Members who are placed after June 15 may still apply for postings in Round 2 and August.
- Administrators should have provided school organizations and assignments to staff, acknowledging that there is always the possibility of change.
- Members who are being placed must accept that assignment – it may be a temporary or a continuing posting, but can continue to seek work through the post and fill process
- Members who have vacated their position and not been successful in post and fill may also be placed as of June 15.
- Members who are successful in the Spring Transfer Round may not apply for positions again until the following Spring Transfer process
- Members should provide advice to the administrator through Staff Committee if they have concerns about the way interviews are being conducted.

Prep Time Make-up Grievance Resolve

VESTA has reached a resolution with the VSB for the grievance we filed on the provision of prep time between 2 and 3 PM on a CSL early dismissal day. The Employer will ensure that when parent-teacher conferences occur on a modified school day any prep time scheduled between 2 and 3 PM will either be re-scheduled to instructional time on the same day or will be made up. Discussions between the Principal and Teacher regarding prep time should take place prior to the parent-teacher conferences.





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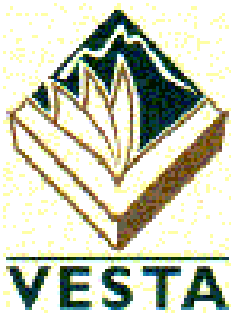
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Virtual EI Workshop For TTOC's - June 16th

EI Workshop for TTOC's

Thursday, June 16, 2022
from 4 - 6 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81463994846?
pwd=VVhTSVpld0RhbXFDQW1CQ3hwWkowdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81463994846?pwd=VVhTSVpld0RhbXFDQW1CQ3hwWkowdz09)

Please RSVP by email to karine@vesta.ca to register for this workshop.

Dates to Remember

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85295920248>

Meeting ID: 852 9592 0248

Passcode: 260602

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.