

VEAES WEEKLY

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



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Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educators' Society Logo

As we consider the shift to our new name, it will be interesting to review our email, website and logo with an eye to our new name! As we move forward, we wanted to issue a huge THANK YOU! to Suzie Mah for creating the current logo, that has served us so well.

néca?mat tə šx^wq^weləwən ct WE ARE OF ONE HEART AND MIND

"We are of One Heart and Mind", which is based on a traditional Musqueam spindle whorl. The spindle whorl has long been recognized for the great weaving traditions. Just as a spindle whorl helps gather and collect fibres to make a single strand of wool, our (VEAES) goal is to create a diverse and inclusive environment, pulled together the fibres of our school communities and our lives into one thread - the things that make us who we are - the VEAES objectives, our resources, the challenges and obstacles we face. The pulling and coming together the strands makes us a stronger and united community. Just as the Musqueam people use this analogy for their community plan, we also give credit to the Musqueam for this idea.



Susan Point's "Behind Four Winds" (2012, screenprint) is featured at Surrey Art Gallery. (Photo: Rachel Topham, Vancouver Art Gallery)

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<https://vimeo.com/223528753>

Provincial Bargaining

While it remains our desire to conclude bargaining by June 30, 2022, the provincial context appears to be indicating a longer timeline will be required.

The BCTF bargaining team is seeking dates during the summer to continue to work towards a negotiated settlement. We know many of our public sector union siblings are continuing to advocate for better options at the table.

In Other Public Sector Bargaining...

Hundreds of BC General Employees' Union (BCGEU) activists have pressured their employer to return to negotiations by organizing the union's biggest ever strike vote for 33,000 members in the public service. Today ballots were counted, and an overwhelming 94.6 per cent of voters said they are prepared to strike for a fair collective agreement.

Between May 16 and June 22, BCGEU members employed with the PSA – with the support of BCGEU staff – embarked on an ambitious member outreach drive to ensure everyone in the bargaining unit could cast their ballot. As the vote wrapped up their employer suddenly invited BCGEU back to bargaining. Negotiations will resume on Monday, June 27, in Vancouver.

"This vote was a massive undertaking, and just by participating in it, our members clearly made waves," says Smith. "The voting results drove their point home and sent a strong message to the employer that their staff stand behind their demands, including cost of living protection for wages. We'll see how well the employer was listening when we return to bargaining next week."

As inflation continues to skyrocket – reaching 8.1 per cent in B.C. today – it erodes workers' spending power. Cost of living protections for wages has become a key issue for all workers, including the public service. Members of their bargaining unit are employees of direct government, including wildfire fighters, social workers, sheriffs and correctional officers, administrative staff, employees in BC Liquor and Cannabis stores and warehouses, as well as conservation officers, employees who do field and lab work in the realm of environmental monitoring, and more.

Labour Day Labour Council Event

Members! In bargaining years, it's more important ever, not only to be public and present in the community speaking out about our working conditions and our learning conditions. In this round of bargaining, working in collaboration with other public sector unions will be an essential part of our collective strategy.

This Labour Day, please join your colleagues and friends at the Vancouver and District Labour Council event in Trout Lake Park, Vancouver, September 5 from 12-4pm.

This is a free, family-friendly event featuring live entertainment, children's activities, union and community organizing booths and food. The event will start with a short rally featuring exciting guest speakers. VEAES is a contributor to this event and we hope to see you there!

JOIN THE MOVEMENT LABOUR DAY 2022



BCTF Summer Conference



Every August, the BCTF hosts a Summer Leadership Conference for teachers from across the province. It's being held this year at UBC on August 23-26. Participants will receive a dorm room and a per diem for food and transportation.

Workshops include training sessions for all union reps and electives in so many areas of interest for teachers. If you're looking to get more involved, or would like to spend a few days in August networking and socializing with other teachers, please email jody@vesta.ca to find out what opportunities are available!

2283 Yukon Street Office

After much important and detail-oriented work in the background, the purchase of the new VEAES building will be finalized Wednesday, June 29. While we are eager to start the transition to our new site, construction will be underway throughout the summer and fall to create a space that is welcoming for members and effective for our organization. An enormous thank you to all of the members who participated on the building committee and VEAES finance committee over the years that this project took shape!

VEAES Summer Office Hours

For summer hours, the office will be open 9:00 am-3:00pm July 4 – July 14 and August 22nd 2022-Sept 2nd 2022. We will have reduced staff and In House Table Officers available. Email is likely the best way to get in touch with us if you have an urgent concern.

Staff Reps and members, please look for the school opening package from VEAES in September, which will include information about the year ahead, a welcome letter for all members, and information update forms that we will be asking you to complete and send back to us.

