

VEAES WEEKLY

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



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Truth & Reconciliation Week, Sept.26-30th

At the BCTF Representative Assembly in May 2022, a motion was carried to recognize the week leading up to Sept 30th as Truth and Reconciliation Week.

This was a response to the government making Orange Shirt Day a federal statutory day of commemoration in Canada to mark the tragic history of residential schools and honour the Survivors. It is a way to acknowledge that our teaching and learning about residential schools is not limited to one day.

Dedicating a week to acknowledge the truths about residential schools is important on our path to reconciliation. We encourage members to work together on this journey. We know that some schools have already begun planning and collaborating for next week. We wanted to highlight some resources to help with your planning:

The Orange Shirt Day Society has a number of resources, including lesson plans and printables. Some of the resources are available in French:

[Teacher Resources \(orangeshirtday.org\)](https://www.orangeshirtday.org/)



The National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation is hosting Truth & Reconciliation Week, which is a national program open to all schools across Canada. This year it includes an expanded program with age-appropriate material for grades 1-12 :

[Truth and Reconciliation Week 2022 - NCTR](https://www.nctr.ca/truth-and-reconciliation-week-2022)

The BCTF Aboriginal Education Program has developed a resource aimed at Gr.4-9 students: [Gladys We Never Knew: The life of a child in a BC Indian Residential School \(bctf.ca\)](https://www.bctf.ca/gladys-we-never-knew)

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights developed a digital Witness Blanket: This resource positions teachers as guides moving alongside students as they learn, empathize, and act together.

<https://witnessblanket.ca/teacher-guide>



We would love to see any of the work that is being done in your school. If you would like to share some photos or a write up, please send it to vanessa@veaes.ca for submission in an upcoming VEAES Weekly.

Unused Remedy Carry Over from 2021-22

Your principal has lists of teachers who have remedy minutes carried over from the last school year.

Discussions on the use of the remedy minutes will be through the Staff Committee structures. However, where the remedy minutes owed are for only one or two teachers, the VEAES representative, school-based administrator and those teachers will determine the use and scheduling of the remedy minutes.

It is understood that the total amount of remedy minutes, where possible, will create an FTE that would be posted if it is equivalent to an assignment longer than three months and a day. Without prejudice, and subject to approval by Employee Services and VEAES, the FTE may be added to a part-time teacher at the school where it would create a regularly scheduled work day.

Remedy minutes can be used for additional prep time, additional resource time or team teaching. A schedule should be created to ensure each teacher accesses their carry over remedy minutes. Teachers providing remedy are not to be reassigned to cover absences.

VTF Virtual School Trustee Candidate Town Hall: October 3rd, 4:00PM-5:30PM

VEAES will be working with our secondary colleagues at VSTA to hold a joint VTF Virtual School Trustee Candidate Town Hall. The format will allow candidates to introduce themselves and will be followed by a question-and-answer format. If you would like to have your question be asked to School Trustee Candidates, please click the link below and enter your questions.

[Survey link](#)



Get involved!

There are many opportunities for members to get involved in the work of the union, not just through your school! One way is to apply for the Executive Committee vacancies that were not filled by the 2021 AGM in May. We currently have a vacant position for the chairperson of the Communications Committee. If you're interested, complete and submit the CV [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact vanessa@veaes.ca.

We also are seeking representatives to meet with the Board on behalf of all VEAES members. Talk to your Staff Rep about these opportunities! The committees seeking reps include: Active Transportation, Diversity, Indigenous Education, School Calendar Committee, Special Education Advisory, Sustainability Advisory, Teacher Salary Placement, Education Change, ICT Advisory. These are all ways to serve the membership and ensure that VEAES members' voices are represented in our discussions with the VSB. CV on the website [here](#)

CLICK grant deadline

VEAES has been a long-time supporter of the local organization called CLICK . It is a grassroots organization aimed at improving the lives of inner-city children. CLICK grants have been used in some schools to help with food programs, clothing programs, and outdoor ed programs, to name a few. There are two granting periods every year, with the fall grants due on October 31st. The grant application is available on the website, <https://www.clicktokids.ca/>.

In Memoriam

We're sad to share that VEAES member, Sheila Pither passed away this week. She was VESTA President from 1998 - 1991 and became a VESTA Honorary Life Member in 1998. VESTA also nominated her for BCTF Honorary Life Member in 2014. We acknowledge and are grateful for the time that Sheila dedicated to our organization and we send our condolences to Sheila's family, friends, and colleagues.



Cancel the FSAs, already!

This year begins without any change in position by government on the nature, timing or use of Foundation Skills Assessment Tests. Despite our continued advocacy at the provincial and local level, we have seen this test continue to be used by outside organizations such as the Fraser Institute to rank schools. As teachers, we know the importance of assessment, but assessment has to be connected to instruction and individual student progress. This is how we know that standardized tests are not effective mechanisms to assess student learning. More recently, not only has the Fraser Institute undermined the integrity of our practice, but they have partnered with other corporations to use the test results to influence neighbourhood real estate prices and other misuse of this data.

The ongoing work of VEAES members is working, as the participation rate for the FSAs in our district is under 50%. Let's keep up the pressure! The BCTF continues to produce material that can be shared with parents, and it is translated and available on the VEAES website [here](#) and [here](#).

VEAES has notified the VSB that we are sending this information out for distribution. **Teachers need to give the administrator at their site 4 hours notice prior to distribution.** You can print the documents out at your site.

Please remember that you can distribute these materials directly to parents on school property, but if you distribute them through students, they need to be in a sealed envelope addressed to the students' parent. We are sending some envelopes to Staff Reps at schools to help with the distribution. If you need more, please let us know.

(F)
FINAL GRADE!

Foundation Skills Assessment Doesn't Make the Grade

WHY
How is the FSA conducted in schools?

- All Grade 4 and 7 students in B.C. are **subjected to** the FSA in **the hallway, computer lab, library, classroom, library, storage room, or office** under the supervision of **the teacher, school administrator, or school administrator**.
- The FSA will take your child **more than 3 hours** to complete over a **two day** period during a six week period. The assessment includes online and written questions, **grouping** and a reflection exercise.
- You or your school principal may excuse your child from writing the FSA if you choose to prioritize authentic learning over standardized testing.**
- Parents of students with identified cognitive disability can be exempted from the FSA in the event of extraordinary circumstances.**

What are the results of the FSA used for?

A **minimum of information** is provided to you, your child, teachers, and the Ministry to ensure B.C. is providing high quality education to all of its students. **HOW?**

- Teachers and school staff ensure that no students are left behind in B.C., regardless of their background.
- The FSA does not contribute to your child's report card and is **used** to rank students, teachers, schools, and districts.

Why do all students in B.C. write the FSA? **Great Question!**

Individualized classroom assessment: communicate to parents how your child is doing in literacy and numeracy.

- The FSA ensures you, your child and your child's teachers and educators have early information on your child's achievement and can respond appropriately to shape learning over the school year.

WHO
What are the benefits of the FSA?

For students, parents and caregivers

- You and your child will have an understanding of how your child is doing and what areas may need support.
- Assessment results are used to ensure the supports needed to meet the unique needs of every student.

For teachers

- Your child's teacher will be confirmed how your child is doing and what supports they may need.

For the Ministry of Education

- Your government will have information about how to improve and deliver high quality education for all students in British Columbia.

Fraser Institute Private Schools Privatization of public education system

*** unfounded claims - pls. cite ALL evidence!**

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Dates to Remember

Teachers Teaching on Call Committee Meeting

Monday, September 26, 2022 @ 4 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84146061497>

Meeting ID: 841 4606 1497

Passcode: 686020

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

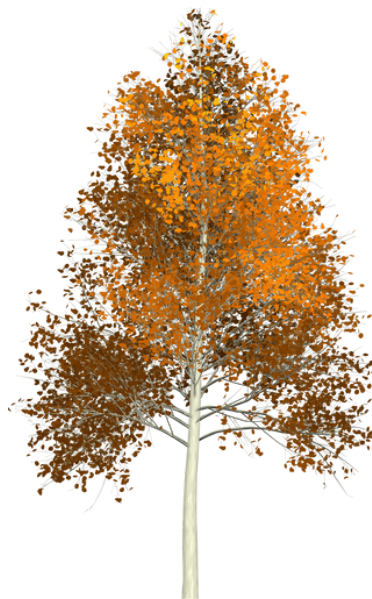
Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday, September 27, 2022

@ 4 pm

VEAES Office

2915 Commercial Drive

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VEAES

The Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educators' Society is the union representing elementary teachers and adult educators working in public schools in Vancouver.