

# VEAES WEEKLY

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



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## Truth and Reconciliation Day

This past week, members have been teaching and learning with their students about the truths about residential schools as part of Truth and Reconciliation Week. This is an important responsibility that we take on as educators in this system: to honour the truths and forge a path to reconciliation.



The work that we are doing in schools is effecting change in our broader communities. As the Hon. Justice Murray Sinclair has said, “Education has gotten us into this mess and education will get us out”.

Friday, September 30th is the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. This day is about deepening our commitment to learning the truth and incorporating reconciliation into every aspect of our daily lives. It is a time to reflect, to challenge ourselves and our biases. It is not easy work, but it is essential.

Here are some links to local events and resources:

[Vancouver Events to Commemorate National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#)

[Beyond September 30: Doing the work \(bctf.ca\)](#) Roles and responsibilities of non-Indigenous teachers in helping to carry the weight of reconciliation work all year long.

[CBC Gem - Every Child Matters: Reconciliation Through Education - Every Child Matters: Reconciliation Through Education](#)

[Aboriginal Education \(bctf.ca\)](#)

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## Professional Standard 9 video is live!

As mentioned in previous editions of the VEAES Weekly, the BC Teachers’ Council (BCTC) has been working on a video to highlight [Professional Standard 9](#), which was added in June 2019 to honour the Truth & Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. It is a powerful and inspiring video that you can watch on your own or collectively at your next site-based VEAES meeting.

The composition of the BCTC includes 5 members that are elected by teachers at the BCTF AGM. One of these elected teachers is VEAES member and VP Marjorie Dumont, to whom we send much gratitude for the complex work that happens at that table.

## **VTF Virtual Townhall with School Board Candidates** **(Zoom, October 3rd, 4PM-5:30PM)**

The VTF Political Action Committee has been organizing a virtual Townhall event to get to know our School Trustee candidates and their platforms. The team has been working to gather questions from members so that members can make informed decisions when we get to the polls on October 15th.

Trustees have a direct connection to a school board's staffing, programs, and values. Strong and effective school trustees protect and improve educational opportunities and supports for students. We hope you can make it out on Monday and bring a colleague.

Click [here](#) to join the Zoom meeting.

Meeting ID: 828 3244 4969

Meeting passcode: 391392

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## **School Union Rep Training**

You should have received your Staff Rep Release Time information for September. Please remember the following: In 2020, a Staff Rep Assembly decision allowed ½ days to be combined to a full day. You can do this with your September and November ½ days. Remember that the ½ day in October won't be available due to the scheduling of SURT.

Any staff, including TTOCs and non-enrolling, district / itinerant staff are entitled to union release, whether or not a TTOC is provided. During Staff Rep Release Time, we recommend that members be at their worksite. If no TTOC is provided, and you are pulled back into your class, then the admin needs to cancel the assignment and the Staff Rep can rebook. If the job is not cancelled, then the funds go to the school flex account for a future day of release time for the school to be provided as per the decision of Staff Committee.

Please remember to fill in the [Union Leave of Absence Form](#) and submit it prior to, or on the day of your absence as we need this information for our accounting purposes.



## **BCFED Convention**

VEAES is an active local of the BCTF, but we also participate as affiliates at the Vancouver District Labour Council (VDLC) and the BC Federation of Labour (BCFED). The role of the BCFED is to provide an opportunity for unions, both public & private sector, to organize and strategize together, including responding with united positions as a broader labour movement.

The BCFED Convention is happening the week of November 21-25th at the Vancouver Convention Centre and VEAES has 12 delegate spots open to members. Our delegates will be elected at the October 18th General Meeting. Release time for sessions attended will be provided. Please send your [completed CV](#) to [vanessa@veaes.ca](mailto:vanessa@veaes.ca) by October 14th.

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## **FSA documents**

We have heard from some sites that there have been issues with members being directed by administration to not print FSA documents on site. If this is happening at your site, follow your administrator's direction. We are working with senior management to resolve this matter and will send out a communication to Staff Reps once this is resolved.

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## **Prep Time and Early Dismissal**

We have been getting questions about loss of prep time due to early dismissal for parent conferences. This is usually for members whose prep is between 2-3pm on those days. Staff reps can inform the administrator that there is a grievance resolve from June 2022 where the employer agrees to reschedule the prep to instructional time on the same day or make up the prep. The arrangement to do so should take place prior to the parent teacher conferences.

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## **School Union Rep Training**

Our fall SURT is right around the corner. This training is for Staff Reps, Staff Committee Chairs, Pro-D Chairs, and Health & Safety Chairs. If you are in one of those roles at your school, please ensure you have registered for your SURT day. If you cannot make it, this is a great opportunity to send another member from your school to bring the information back to your site. Don't forget to book yourself off in SFE using Code 141 for that day.

Check with your Staff Rep for registration forms and info and email completed forms to: [andrea@veaes.ca](mailto:andrea@veaes.ca).



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## Dates to Remember

### **Staff Union Rep Training**

October 5 & 6 2022

October 11 & 12, 2022

Time: 9 am -3 pm

Location: Croatian Cultural Centre,  
3250 Commercial Drive

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### **Executive Committee Meeting**

October 11, 2022

Time: 4 pm

Location: VEAES Office  
2915 Commercial Drive

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### **General Meeting/Staff Rep Assembly**

October 18, 2022

Time: 4 pm

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### **Teachers Teaching on Call Committee Meeting**

October 19, 2022

Time: 4 pm

VEAES

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