

VEAES WEEKLY

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



Table of CONTENTS

Remembrance Day - Page 2

.....
Provincial Ratification Vote - Page 3

.....
Indigenous Focus Day on Friday, November 25th - Page 3

.....
Food Safe Requirements - Page 3

.....
TRC Call to Action: - Page 4

.....
Debate on SLO Program - Page 4

.....
Health & Safety Reporting - Page 5

.....
Denial of Leave - Page 5

.....
Bring Forward Your Motions For The BCTF AGM! - Page 5

Remembrance Day

Every year on November 11, Canadians pause in a moment of silence to honour and remember the men and women who have served, and continue to serve Canada during times of war, conflict and peace. If you are looking for an event to attend, here are events that are happening in the [Lower Mainland](#).

This year, [Canada Post](#) has honoured Tommy Prince, one of Canada's most decorated Indigenous war veterans, with a new stamp to commemorate his life and his service to our country. Tommy Prince was a member of Manitoba's Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and served in WWII and the Korean War. He was awarded 11 medals, including the Military Medal and the Silver Star for his service.



Provincial Ratification Vote

As you may have heard, the BCTF has reached a tentative agreement with the employer. The BCTF EC is recommending the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to the membership. This is your opportunity to vote on the new contract language that becomes part of our Collective Agreement and represents the rights we have in our workplace. Please log on to the [BCTF website](#) to read about the tentative agreement.

VEAES is holding a General Meeting on Tuesday, November 15th, 4pm in the cafeteria at Tupper Secondary to provide more information about the MOA and how it affects VEAES members. We encourage all members to attend and bring your questions.

The ratification vote will be from November 28-30th. Staff Reps will receive more information at the Staff Rep Assembly following the General Meeting regarding voting process.

Indigenous Focus Day on Friday, November 25th

The theme for Indigenous Focus Day on November 25th is “Building Off Each Other’s Strengths”. The purpose of the day is to hold space for discussions and information sharing about our collective responsibility as educators in providing all students with the necessary time and opportunity to develop deeper understandings of the experiences, cultures, and histories of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

This is a District-led Pro-D and it is not considered in-service. The implications of that is mostly for our TTOC colleagues. As it is considered Pro-D, the Pro-D language applies, whereby TTOCs who are in an assignment for 5 or more days, will have access to the sessions at the site where they are working.

The District Mentorship Team has put together an opportunity for TTOCs to participate. It will be held at the VSB Ed Centre @ 1580 West Broadway in Room 120. You can register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/Rk73tpDAwM>

Come to the next virtual TTOC meeting on [Wednesday, Nov 16th at 4pm](#) to discuss this and other TTOC topics. Contact our TTOC Chair, [Kevin McPherson](#), for more info.

Food Safe Requirements

Your Health & Safety reps wanted to bring the [Food Event Resources and Template 2022-23 \(002\).pdf](#), to your attention to better understand the Board’s new Food Safe requirements in schools. Please talk to your site-based Health & Safety rep regarding any issues with this and they can bring your concerns forward at the next [VEAES H&S Committee meeting](#) on November 17th @ 4pm. This meeting will be virtual. All members are welcome, not just Health & Safety reps.

TRC Call to Action:

This week, we are highlighting Call to Action #30: *We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.*

There is no national strategy to monitor and report on progress in eliminating the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in custody. Incarceration rates for Indigenous people – who only comprise 5% of the Canadian population – continue to rise. In fact, since April 2010 the Indigenous inmate population has increased by 18.1% whereas the non-Indigenous incarcerated population has declined over the same period by 28.3%.

The numbers are even more troubling for Indigenous women, who now account for almost 50% of the women inmate population in Canada. (Correctional Investigator Report Dec. 17, 2021) – up from 42% in the Office of Correctional Services 2018 – 2019 Annual Report.

Source: <https://www.indigenouwatchdog.org/cta/call-to-action-30/>

Debate on SLO Program

At the Nov 7 inaugural ceremony where the new VSB school trustees were sworn in, one of the ABC trustees submitted a notice of motion for the debate of the reinstatement of the SLO program to take place at the Nov 28 board meeting. This notice came as a surprise, with a clear motivation to overturn a decision that has been made by the previous board of trustees in 2021 to remove the SLO program.

That decision came after a year-long process of wide and in-depth consultation with the school community and after hearing public delegates and considering the experiences of marginalized students, families, and educators. The voices of Black, Indigenous and gender non-binary folks featured in the [report](#) were loud and clear: they do not feel safe in the presence of police, not least in a school environment.

Almost 3000 members of the public also signed the [petition](#) to call for the end of the SLO program.

VEAES passed a motion at the EC meeting on Nov 8 to have our representatives speak on behalf of VEAES members at the public meeting. Members are encouraged to discuss this issue with their colleagues and to share with community members (e.g. families, parents, guardians, students, grassroots organizations) who may be interested in speaking at the VSB Public Delegates Board Meeting on Nov 21.

The deadline to [register](#) to speak is 4:30pm Nov 16.

Health & Safety Reporting

After filling in your 6A form, remember to send a copy to these three people/places: your administrator, hsreports@vsb.bc.ca, and marjorie@veaes.ca. By sending it to hsreports@vsb.bc.ca it comes to the attention of the District Health & Safety Committee, where we have representatives to raise our members' concerns. What we have found is that the information we are getting from members is not matching the data provided at the District Health & Safety Committee meetings.

You can find a lot of information on the VSB hub by clicking on Health & Safety and then Forms & Incident reporting. This is great to familiarize yourself with as it outlines the steps that the administrator must take when a 6A form is filed. It also gives information about the WorkSafe 7A form, which is for when a worker requires first aid because of a violent incident.

It includes other forms, including the aggressive/serious behaviour log for tracking student behaviour. Important to document as much as possible. This helps when advocating for more supports.

Denial of Leave

If you've been denied a leave, please contact the VEAES office. We are compiling data of members who have applied and been denied a leave. Send your info to darren@veaes.ca.

Bring Forward Your Motions For The BCTF AGM!

The BCTF's policy and procedures manual is called the [Members' Guide](#). This directs the Federation in how we organize, support members, run our short- and long-term disability plans, support for locals, political action and internal processes.

Every spring break, the BCTF brings together about 700 delegates representing the 69 local organizations to determine changes to, or the creation of new policy. If you have ideas about how the BCTF can do better, whether it be on our social justice, bargaining, member support, communications, member outreach or union processes, you can start the process to bring about such change by proposing a motion to our most sovereign decision-making body.

Please complete the [form here](#), which will be reviewed by VESTA's Local Representatives and the VESTA EC, and the final decisions about which motions will go forward to the AGM will be made at the December 7 General Meeting. Remember that the January meeting will be where we appoint delegates to that meeting – please consider applying if you'd like to be part of that exciting and important decision-making process!

Dates to Remember

Newly Scheduled General Meeting

Staff Rep Assembly

Nov 15, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Tupper Secondary - Cafeteria

419 E 24th Ave, Vancouver, BC

Teachers Teaching on Call

Committee Meeting

November 16, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87680052489>

Meeting ID: 876 8005 2489

Passcode: 529861

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Working & Learning Conditions/Bargaining

Committee Meeting

November 16, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

VEAES Office

2915 Commercial Drive

Aboriginal Education

Committee Meeting

November 17, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84235717743>

Meeting ID: 842 3571 7743

Passcode: 925570

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Health & Safety

Committee Meeting

November 17, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84235717743>

Meeting ID: 842 3571 7743

Passcode: 925570

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada



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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.