

# VEAES WEEKLY

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



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## **Provincial Ratification Vote**

We want to thank all of the members who participated in our General Meeting on Tuesday. It was so great to be together to discuss bargaining as a collective. Please talk to your colleagues about the conversations that took place, as those discussions really help unpack the complexities of the package being offered and the impacts it will have on members.

In terms of the ratification vote that we will be taking place, your Staff Reps have been provided information on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that we will be voting on. If ratified, the language from the MOA becomes a part of our new Collective Agreement (CA). It is important to read and understand the proposed language and how it impacts your work.

**Voting will be happening in person, at your site and also at the VEAES office from Nov.28th - Nov.30th, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.** TTOCs, itinerant staff, and part time members can vote at a site that they are working at on polling days. Staff Reps will be putting up posters with the specific times that polling will happen at your site.

The VEAES office will be set up for **advance voting on Nov 21, 22, and 23rd from 8:00am – 4:30pm** for members who are unable to vote on Nov.28-30th. Come on by the office at 2915 Commercial Drive.

**Members on leave can come to the VEAES office to cast their ballot on any advance polling days or from Nov 28th - 30th.**

Staff Reps can use their ½ day release time for the month and request an extra ½ day release time if required. Please fill in your [Union Leave of Absence Form](#), click the “Other” box and write that it’s for Provincial Ratification Vote before submitting it to [hitomi@veaes.ca](mailto:hitomi@veaes.ca).

Any questions or concerns around your accessibility to voting, please call the VEAES office, 604-873-8378.

## **Ballot Boxes & Election Materials**

We still have a few schools that have yet to pick up their ballot boxes. If you are at one of the following schools, please touch base with your Staff Rep and send someone to pick up the voting package and ballot box for your school: *Begbie, Champlain Heights Annex, Maquinna, Queen Alexandra, Sexsmith, and Weir*. The VEAES office is open till 5pm every day. If school reps do not pick up the ballot box, members from that site can vote at the VEAES office.

Staff Reps will be receiving the second voting package next week, that will include ballots and affidavit envelopes. If you do not receive your package by end of day Thursday, November 24th, please call the VEAES office.

## **Bargaining Information Session (Virtual)**

For those who were unable to make it to Tuesday's General Meeting, VEAES will be holding a virtual meeting on Wednesday, Nov 23rd from 4 - 5 pm. An email communication has been sent out to all members with the link to join in the session. We strongly encourage members to bring their questions to this meeting.

## **Indigenous Focus Day**

We would like to clarify that Nov 25th is a Non-instructional day and NOT considered a Pro-D day. **Pro-D funds should not be accessed for this day**, as it is Ministry-mandated and District-led. Pro-D funds are reserved for teacher-led and teacher-directed Pro-D days. Site-based Pro-D committees ought not be organizing any speakers or events for this day.

Please consult the jointly created [VTF & VSB Pro-D handbook](#) and talk to your Pro-D committee if you are concerned about the communication from admin surrounding this day.

The implications for TTOCs remains the same. [Article B.2.7.h](#) states that *"Non-instructional days shall be counted and paid for only from the fifth and subsequent consecutive working days on any one assignment..."*(pg36)

TTOCs are reminded that the District Mentorship team has arranged the opportunity to participate in that day. It will happen at the VSB office on 1580 West Broadway in Room 120. Please fill in the following form to register:

<https://forms.office.com/r/Rk73tpDAwM>

## **IT/APPS**

If you are having issues with apps that have disappeared off of your iPads & other VSB devices, please contact our representative on the ICT Advisory committee, [danielle@veaes.ca](mailto:danielle@veaes.ca). There are times when an app is deleted as it no longer meets the privacy criteria.

If you are looking to add an app, the vetting process to get an app approved can take upward of 1 year, so talk to your admin about getting that process started.

## **Child of a VEAES member Bursary Reminder**

Reminder that the deadline for application for the Bursary for the Child of a VEAES member deadline is December 1, and the winning name will be drawn at the December 5, 2022 General Meeting!

[Find criteria and the application form on the VEAES website here](#)

**Fun Fact:** VEAES also sponsors an annual \$1200 Bursary through SFU for Elementary Education Preservice Teachers, selected by that university!

## **VSBS Wellness Update**

The VSB has been responding to VEAES members' concerns about the Wellness program offered by the District to support teachers. While no employee assistance plan will address the significant teacher burnout and workload issues, efforts have been made by the folks working at the Board to acknowledge and respond to the need for greater, more culturally diversified counselling and support. One of the newer programs being offered by the district is AbilitiCBT, an online CBT therapy program that is connected with a counsellor, and offers separate, Indigenous-focused modules for members who identify as Indigenous (<https://vsbindigenous.abiliticbt.com/en-CA>). In their Wellness Fair in October, and in response to VEAES member feedback, sessions were offered by the Board on Breaking Barriers for 2SLGBTQIA+, Indigenous perspectives on wellness, Vicarious Trauma, and other practical skills like voice projection and protection, financial planning, tax tips, and retirement transitions.

An additional Feb 17, 2023 VSB led Pro-D program will include topics such as SOGI Perspectives, Compassion fatigue, Sleep Hygiene, Financial Literacy, Indigenous Perspectives, and Nutrition.

As part of our feedback to the district, member concerns about the LifeWorks EFAP platform continue to be raised with the service provider regarding timelines, availability of services, gatekeeping, and unreasonably low limits to the number of sessions provided. The Board has asked us to solicit feedback from members on whether some of these concerns have been ameliorated, and discussions continue about alternate service providers, should the concerns persist. Please email [jody@veaes.ca](mailto:jody@veaes.ca) if you have current concerns about the services provided by the EFAP program, LifeWorks.

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## **December 6th Day of Remembrance**

Every year on the anniversary of the massacre at Montreal's L'Ecole Polytechnique, we remember and take action. On December 6, 1989, 14 women were murdered in their university classrooms because they were women and because they were studying engineering.

This is a day to think about and take action on Violence against Women and to acknowledge that gender-based violence is a significant barrier to an equitable society. We also acknowledge that Indigenous women and girls are disproportionately impacted by violence and its' relationship to colonization.

VEAES' Social Justice & Solidarity Committee is inviting all members to gather at the VEAES office at 4:30 pm for some refreshments and then make our way to the memorial event at Thornton Park.

## Dates to Remember

### **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

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### **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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### **Professional Issues Committee Meeting**

November 21, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85458659746>

Meeting ID: 854 5865 9746

Passcode: 738530

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

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### **Executive Committee Meeting**


November 22, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

VEAES Office

2915 Commercial Drive

Vancouver, BC V5N 4C8

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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.