

# VEAES WEEKLY

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



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## Honouring Indigenous Veterans This National Aboriginal Veterans Day

November 8th is National Aboriginal Veterans Day, a day of remembrance and commemoration of the contributions of Indigenous veterans in the First and Second World Wars, as well as the Korean War. National Aboriginal Veterans Day began in Winnipeg in 1994 when Indigenous veterans were not recognized in Remembrance Day activities, and is now celebrated in many communities across Canada. This Aboriginal Veterans Day, we would like to acknowledge the sacrifices of our Aboriginal veterans and express our gratitude for their contributions to Canada and the world.

While not eligible for conscription, as they were not considered citizens of Canada, over 12,000 Indigenous people are estimated to have volunteered in all three wars. They enlisted despite the challenges they faced, including traveling long distances from remote communities, learning a new language (English), and coping with racism against them. Both men and women enlisted, serving as soldiers, nurses and in other roles. Many served with distinction, winning medals for bravery in action.

After the war, enlisted Indigenous people returned home to continued discrimination, including in some cases denial of benefits, loss of Indian Status, and expropriation of their land by the government for non-Indigenous veterans. They were also excluded by the Veterans' Associations and were banned from Legion halls, where veterans gathered to drink and get advice on post-war benefits. It was only in 1995 that Indigenous veterans were allowed to lay wreaths commemorating their fallen comrades at the National War Memorial in Ottawa. It took until 2003 for the Government of Canada to provide veterans' benefits to First Nations soldiers who had been denied them in the past, and Metis veterans have never received them.

As educators, it is important to bring this recognition into our discussions with our students about Remembrance Day. Here are some resources to help you with that work: [Aboriginal-Canadian Veterans](#) , [Indigenous Veterans](#).



**The late Fred George  
Wet'suwet'en Veteran**



## Honouring Indigenous Veterans This National Aboriginal Veterans Day



**Robert S. Bright  
Gitksan served in WWII**



**In 2002, Kwakwaka'wakw Totem Pole Artist Calvin Hunt was commissioned to create a totem pole at the Veterans Memorial Lodge in Broadmead near Victoria (Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ territories).**

## **Provincial Bargaining: Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)**

By now it is public knowledge that there is a tentative provincial settlement agreement between the BCTF and BCPSEA, and that the ratification vote is scheduled to take place Nov 16-18. VEAES encourages all members to read the [summary of the proposed settlement package](#). Please take the time to read through it with a critical lens, and discuss it with your colleagues. If you are having trouble accessing the BCTF Portal, you can request support [through the website at this link](#) or navigating to Services and Guidance -> Membership, Expenses and Administration -> Get Assistance Logging In to BCTF.ca

Our regularly scheduled Staff Rep Assembly on November 15 has been expanded to a General Meeting. It will take place in the cafeteria of Tupper Secondary, starting at 4pm. We are hoping that Staff Reps will host a VEAES meeting at their job sites in the coming days and to encourage as many members as possible to attend the GM, to see a more in-depth presentation of the MOA and to support their understanding of the changes contained in it.

Members with questions about specific personal matters can email [bargaininginfo@bctf.ca](mailto:bargaininginfo@bctf.ca)

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## **FSAs – (yep, we’re still talkin’ about them)**

Your VEAES reps brought forward concerns to senior management on the content of the FSA letters they sent out to parents. We highlighted the inaccuracies and the harm that is caused by providing inaccurate information to parents. We will continue to seek resolution on this matter and will keep you posted.

Also in FSA news, we still need sites to inform us of the number of copies of union FSA materials that were made using the VSB printers at your site. This is really important for us to uphold the agreement we made with the Board to have access to and to pay for these union documents. Please email your information to [andrea@veaes.ca](mailto:andrea@veaes.ca).

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## **Students arriving after Sept. 6th**

If you are at a site that had a large influx of students after Sept.6th and do not have the resources required for those students, please talk to your administrator. Use your VEAES structures to make recommendations for provision of resources at Staff Committee and have your Staff Rep bring the information or even a motion to our next Staff Rep Assembly.

## **IEP meeting schedule**

We have heard concerns from many sites about how admin is directing that all IEP meetings need to happen outside of school hours. In discussion with senior management, we heard that there is no hard and fast rule about all meetings needing to happen at those times. They heard our feedback regarding workload and how it needs to be balanced. Some meetings may occur at those times and some may occur during that time period between recess and lunch, using supervision aides to provide coverage.

If you are being directed to only book these meetings outside of school hours, you can bring a recommendation through your Staff Committee to include the time between recess and lunch. Please let the VEAES office know if your administrator does not follow the recommendation of your Staff Committee and we will bring it senior management.

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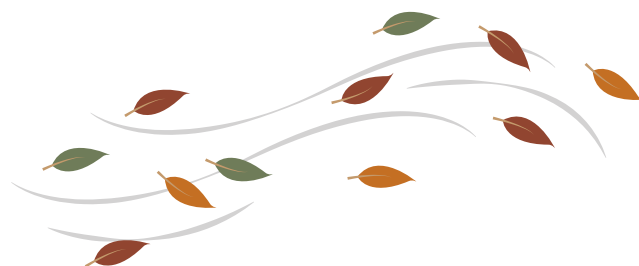
## **WCB claims for COVID**

We wanted to provide an update regarding the information sent out last week regarding your WCB claims. We would like to clarify that this information is for all workers who are working in an education setting, not just classroom teachers. We apologize for the confusion that caused.

There have been some questions around the lab tests as the province is no longer providing a PCR test, yet claim adjudicators may still ask this question first. If there was no PCR test done, the adjudicator will ask the claimant what other evidence they have of a COVID-19 infection. This includes evidence of a different type of positive test, a medical diagnosis, or other evidence that supports the worker has contracted COVID-19, such as another staff member or student with a diagnosed COVID-19 infection.

WCB has released an updated guidance on adjudicating COVID-19 claims and can be found here in detail: [Information for workers - WorkSafeBC](#). Please look at the FAQ section as it provides good information.

Our advice is to make a phone or virtual appt with your doctor if you have tested positive for COVID-19 and get a diagnosis that you can provide to WCB. If your claim gets denied, please contact the VEAES office.





## **Health & Safety New Member Training**

If you missed the information for the new member training that occurred in October, please watch out for the dates for next session which will be held in January/February 2023. Please contact [danielle@veaes.ca](mailto:danielle@veaes.ca) or [marjorie@vesta.ca](mailto:marjorie@vesta.ca) if you or you know someone who needs training.

Advanced training will be November 9 and 17, 2022. Topics TBA

## **Call out for VEAES Rep to VSB Diversity Advisory Group**

The VSB Diversity Advisory meets 4 times a year during after-school hours, to which VEAES is entitled a seat. The advisory group is comprised of representatives from groups such as teachers (VEAES and VSTA), administrators (VEPVPA and VASSA), DPAC, CUPE, SOGI and Anti-Racism District Resource teachers, a district principal, and an Associate Superintendent, as well as community groups such as Qmunity and Out On Screen. Interested members can apply by [filling out this CV](#) and return it to [amy@veaes.ca](mailto:amy@veaes.ca). Applications will be reviewed by the executive committee, and the successful candidate will be provided with training and mentorship for this role.





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## Dates to Remember

**Executive  
Committee Meeting**  
November 8, 2022 @ 4:00 PM  
**VEAES Office**  
2915 Commercial Drive

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**Newly Scheduled General Meeting  
Staff Rep Assembly**  
Nov 15, 2022 @ 4:00 PM  
**Tupper Secondary - Cafeteria**  
419 E 24th Ave, Vancouver, BC

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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.