

VEAES WEEKLY

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



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WCB Claims for Contracting Covid

While the government is currently being called to task about their continued gaslighting of teachers and parents, telling us all that COVID transmission in schools is low, we are hearing that absences are going up again in schools. This is a good reminder to continue what we know works to lower transmission: wearing masks in indoor settings, avoid large gatherings, handwashing, and staying home when you are sick.

That being said, if a member has COVID-19, the COVID-19 infection coincides with employment in a classroom environment, and they are missing work due to this condition, members are encouraged to apply for WCB using the Teleclaim service (1-888-WORKERS, toll-free). This applies to members regardless of employment status (contract, temporary, TTOC, continuing, etc.).

Onset of symptoms for a WCB claim should coincide with attendance in a work environment where the member is in close contact and possibly being exposed to the COVID-19 virus. COVID-19 related claims are streamlined through WorkSafe.

The WCB claimant must have COVID-19 to file a claim. Verification is either from a lab test result, or a diagnosis from a physician. If you would like to file a claim, you will need a positive test result or attend with a physician and receive a diagnosis of COVID-19 infection. The type of test is not relevant, but this should be an official lab result document.

We encourage you to apply for WCB should you have COVID-19 while working as a classroom teacher, using WCB's Teleclaim Service.



Completing 6A Worksafe Forms

Members completing 6A WorkSafe forms when experiencing violent incidents please remember to submit to your school-based Administrator, but ALSO, to copy the VEAES Office (marjorie@veaes.ca) and send a copy to hsreports@vsb.bc.ca. This last step is essential in ensuring that 6A form reports become part of the district reports on violent incidents in schools, and allowing us to ensure that the data produced by the district is accurate!



Provincial Bargaining

With Provincial Bargaining still underway, we want to encourage members to stay informed by signing in to the [BCTF portal](#) and reading the bargaining updates and objectives, which can be found under the [What's Happening](#) tab.

From the many calls and emails to the VEAES office, workload and stress are a priority and a serious ongoing problem. The ongoing teacher shortage, SSW shortage, insufficient Resource support and violent incidents are having a real impact on our ability to support our students. Sharing these real-life experiences with friends and family is a way to engage in bargaining and support the BCTF bargaining team. Please view the updates to make yourself familiar with the proposals at the table, including salary.

There will come a point where you will have to vote on the next actions, based on the recommendations of the BCTF EC. Talk about provincial bargaining at your next site-based VEAES meeting and discuss the changes you want to see in your working conditions and what you are willing to do to push for these changes. Bring your colleagues and your action items to the next VEAES General Meeting, on Monday, December 5th as we discuss bargaining and the path forward.



BCTF New Teachers' Conference – call for facilitators

The British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) will be hosting two New Teachers' Conference this year. The theme of this year's conference is: Nurturing with Nature – Supporting wellness through place-based learning. One regional conference in Nelson (May 13, 2023) and one Metro conference in Vancouver (February 25, 2023). The conferences are designed specifically for teachers and teachers teaching on call in their first five (5) years of teaching, as well as teacher candidates.

The BCTF is currently putting a call out for facilitators for this conference to provide workshops on topics such as : social justice, aboriginal education, work/life balance, communications with parents, classroom management, new curriculum, etc.

Responsibilities for the conference include:

- Prepare and present a 90-minute workshop.
- Have experience as a workshop facilitator, have expertise in the content area, and is comfortable with the theme.
- Proof of vaccination is not required for in-person events as of October 2022. However, should the provincial or hotel regulation change, you may be asked to provide a proof of vaccination to attend the event.

If you are interested, please fill in the following [proposal application form](#) (requires BCTF login). The deadline for submissions is Friday, November 18th at 5pm.

Pension Plan Seminars

For the next five Tuesdays, from November 1 to November 29, 2022, the BCTF will be presenting online pension seminars to help members learn about their pension plan, their pension options, and factors to consider when planning for retirement. A different topic will be discussed in-depth each week.

The schedule is as follows:

- **November 1:** Pension Options
- **November 8:** Relationship Breakdowns and Your Pension
- **November 15:** Purchasing Leaves of Absence
- **November 22:** Extended Health and Dental Benefits
- **November 29:** SIP and WCB Claims and Your Pension.

All seminars will take place from 4:30–6:00 p.m. PST. Please include the Zoom link below when communicating this information to your members.

Zoom link:

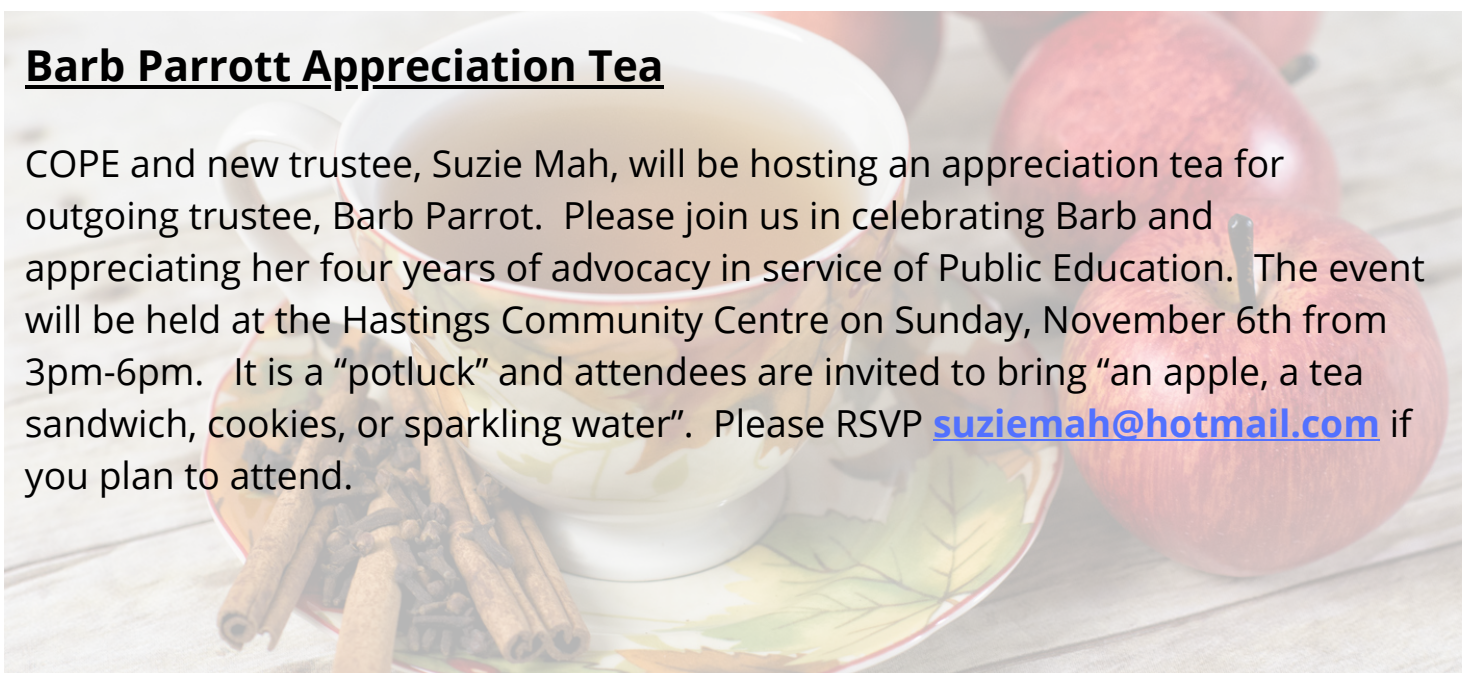
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87344950598?pwd=YWVqNkVvN25mRDBJTTA4aUJSZ1h3QT09>

Members who cannot attend the live online sessions may watch the recorded pension seminars on the BCTF YouTube channel in the Playlists section at their convenience: <https://www.youtube.com/user/BCTFvids/playlists>

Members are encouraged to call Sarbrinder Singh Lalliat, Assistant Director of Pensions & Group Benefits, at 604-871-1949 if they have any questions related to the Teachers' Pension Plan, Canada Pension Plan, and/or Old Age Security Benefits.

Barb Parrott Appreciation Tea

COPE and new trustee, Suzie Mah, will be hosting an appreciation tea for outgoing trustee, Barb Parrot. Please join us in celebrating Barb and appreciating her four years of advocacy in service of Public Education. The event will be held at the Hastings Community Centre on Sunday, November 6th from 3pm-6pm. It is a "potluck" and attendees are invited to bring "an apple, a tea sandwich, cookies, or sparkling water". Please RSVP suziemah@hotmail.com if you plan to attend.



TRC Call to Action #1

In our ongoing reconciliation work, this week we are highlighting Call to Action #1, which addresses the systemic barriers to Indigenous children and families in regards to child welfare. We know the impact to our students in care is huge and that there needs to be connections to cultural supports and environments to help them navigate their daily lives while in care.

Child welfare

1. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care by:
 - i. Monitoring and assessing neglect investigations.
 - ii. Providing adequate resources to enable Aboriginal communities and child-welfare organizations to keep Aboriginal families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside.
 - iii. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the history and impacts of residential schools.
 - iv. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the potential for Aboriginal communities and families to provide more appropriate solutions to family healing.
 - v. Requiring that all child-welfare decision makers consider the impact of the residential school experience on children and their caregivers

Mini school applications

We've been hearing about teachers being asked by parents to write reference letters for their children to attend Independent schools or Mini Schools. VEAES has had a longstanding policy to not provide these letters to parents for many reasons: supporting public education, equity of access to choice programs, and increased workload. The work has already been done, so please let parents know that they can use their child's most recent report card if you are being asked to write a letter. This is a position that our VSTA colleagues are aware of and in support of.



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Dates to Remember

**Aboriginal Education
Committee Meeting**
Oct 27, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88153091281>

Meeting ID: 881 5309 1281

Passcode: 391392

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

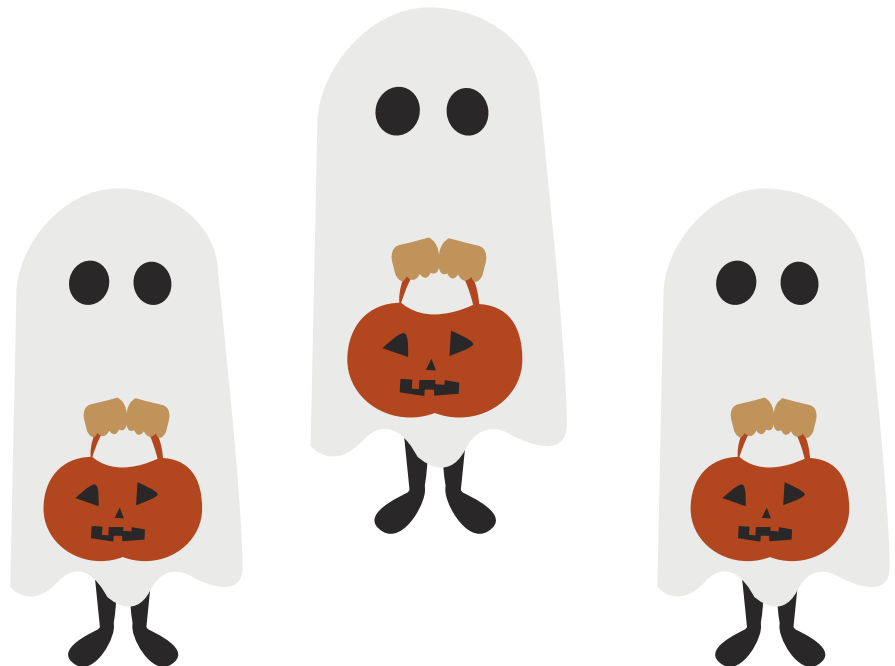


**Social Justice & Solidarity
Committee Meeting**

Nov 1, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

VEAES Office - Room B

2915 Commercial Drive



VEAES

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