

# VEAES WEEKLY

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



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## **TRC Calls to Action**

As we have continually heard from Indigenous people in Canada, the work of reconciliation does not happen on one day, or just one week. This is ongoing work that we need to do in all of our communities: our cities, our schools, our families, and our unions, if we want to make meaningful change. As a union, it is important to address the systemic racism in our structures that impact our Indigenous members.

The Staff Rep Assembly is committed to doing ongoing Truth and Reconciliation work and part of that work is looking at the TRC Calls to Action when we meet each month. At our Oct 19th, 2021 meeting, we passed the following motion: *"THAT each SRA or GM meeting begin with one or more of the TRC Calls to Action and that the Call to Action be discussed in conjunction with the Acknowledgement"*

Part of this motion speaks to doing the actual work to make it meaningful. At each meeting, we are called to be witnesses and to take this information back to our communities. As a member of our union community, we want to share these calls with you in hopes that it sparks discussion and helps us to do the learning and unlearning we are being called to do.

This month, we will be looking at Call to Action #9: *We call upon the federal government to prepare and publish annual reports comparing funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves, as well as educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.*

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## **Finance Committee Information**

Schools should have received their preliminary budgets and we're hearing concerns from some sites about the role and rights VEAES members have on Finance Committee. We negotiated new language in the 2019 round of bargaining regarding school budgets: [A.25.10 Copies of the School Budget Reference Manual will be made available to school staff committees by the school administrator](#). If your administrator has not provided your site's budget, please ask them and refer to our negotiated language. Here is a link to the VEAES workshop about [Finance Committee](#) to help with understanding

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## **Updated School Union Team Lists needed**

Staff Reps are reminded to send in the updated school union team lists. These lists are the main way VEAES communicates with reps, and are needing to be updated for the 2022-2023 school year. We are excited about new folks coming on board, and want to make sure everyone is receiving the appropriate information. Thank you all for cooperating.

## **Access to ESA Sick Leave**

We have received advice from the BCTF on how to address the issue of Employment Standards Act (ESA) paid sick days and barriers created by school districts to access these days. A provincial grievance has been filed and it has been referred to arbitration.

One of the barriers is that employers are requiring TTOCs to have accepted an assignment in order to access their sick leave. While we are working to resolve this matter, we ask that TTOCs keep track of the days that they were sick and denied ESA leave. We recommend you apply for ESA sick leave regardless of whether you were booked into an assignment or not. If you have to decline a job due to illness, use the Illness code in SFE and send an email to [leaves@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:leaves@vsb.bc.ca) and request an ESA paid sick leave.

If there are denials of ESA paid sick leave or situations where teachers were prevented from accessing this leave, email [vanessa@veaes.ca](mailto:vanessa@veaes.ca).

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## **October PSA day**

October 21st is the provincial wide Pro-D day where the BCTF Provincial Specialist Associations (PSA) put on pro-d workshops. This is a great opportunity to meet and learn with colleagues outside of our district. We'd like to highlight two PSA opportunities that have been sent our way:

[The Anti-Oppression Educators Collective](#) presents the 2022 PSA Conference "Talk Back: From Outdated to Liberated". Rooted in anti-oppressive and abolitionist principles, this conference promises a day of deep learning that will provide educators and activists with the necessary skills, resources, and community to disrupt systems of oppression and carcerality in their daily lives. Beginning with a powerful youth panel, participants will have the opportunity to listen to the voices of those most adversely affected by oppressive education policies and practices. With a wide variety of workshop options, participants will be sure to find a session that promotes personal and professional growth, and inspires collective action to challenge the inequities we face in our classrooms and broader community.

The BC Primary Teachers' Association presents Inspiring Reconnections with Dr. Jean Clinton, child psychiatrist who is presenting the workshop: [Love Builds Brains](#) exploring brain development. The event is being held at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel.

## **Be Proactive! Talk With Your JOHS About Power Outages!**

Last month, the power went out at two Vancouver schools and remained out for the majority of the morning. The District responds in situations where there are safety concerns, but the challenge, especially for elementary schools, include supervision of students, access to water, availability of natural lighting etc. Given that each site is so unique in our district, we encourage school JOHS committees to discuss the issue and identify potential areas of concern, in order to be better prepared in the eventuality of a power outage.

Safety first!

## **Watch the VTF Virtual School Trustee Town Hall Event!**

Missed the exciting live premiere? Click the [link](#) to watch!

The VTF Virtual School Trustee Town Hall was a great success with a whopping 16 candidates from 5 different parties in attendance. Trustees introduced themselves and their platforms, then were put in groups of 3 to answer 9 different questions sent to the Political Action team by VTF teachers. Pressed for time? Watch it in 2x speed and become an informed voter in under 45 minutes!

## **BC Federation of Labour Convention**

The BC Federation of Labour is a coalition of labour unions in BC. While our work and our structures are diverse, there are many things upon which we are united. Social Justice, Health and Safety, Working Conditions, Pensions, Union Organizing are all matters that impact all working British Columbians. VEAES has room for additional BC Federation of Labour delegates to attend the convention on November 21 – 24, 2022. Delegates will be elected at the October 18 General Meeting. You may attend for a day, a few days or the whole week with release time. Contact [vanessa@veaes.ca](mailto:vanessa@veaes.ca) for more info.

## **VEAES Mentorship Fund**

Funds still remain in the VEAES mentorship fund – funds resulting from our last negotiated Collective Agreement. These are one-time funds and we hope to continue to distribute them to members until the funds are gone! This year, VEAES EC member, Natasha Burditt, will be administering the provision of dates, so please send your [completed forms](#) to [natasha@vesta.ca](mailto:natasha@vesta.ca) for consideration. Please note that there may be some delays while we process the applications, and we cannot approve any funds that do not provide the names of more than one teacher participating. Criteria and information on the website! Available to all K-12 and AE members!





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## Dates to Remember

### **Staff Union Rep Training**

October 5 & 6 2022

October 12 & 13, 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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### **Working & Learning Conditions/Bargaining Committee Meeting**

October 12, 2022 @ 4 pm

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82517493934>

Meeting ID: 825 1749 3934

Passcode: 553486

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada



VEAES

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