

# VEAES WEEKLY

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



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## **Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educators' Society Logo Contest**

As VEAES has recently changed our name to reflect the inclusion of Adult Educators and other non-teaching members, we are looking for a new logo for our association. We're inviting Indigenous students in Vancouver schools to submit original artwork for our Logo Contest. Through our Executive Committee and General Meeting, a winner will be chosen whose image will represent VEAES on our website, letterhead, advertising and other promotional materials. The creator of the chosen design also wins a bursary worth \$500 or an Apple iPad. All entries will receive an honourarium. We know our students are creative, imaginative, connected to their school communities and teachers, and we are very excited to see what they will create!

***The contest is open to all Indigenous students in Vancouver Elementary, Secondary or Adult Education.***

We are looking for an image that represents Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educators' relationship to schools and that connects to our work with Truth and Reconciliation. The criteria is as follows:

- include the acronym "VEAES" in a legible script, and it is preferred that there be no other wording.
- be visible in both black and white and colour copies
- use black and white, and may include one or two additional colours, but no more than two.
- make a connection between public education and reconciliation or social justice
- the logo may be created using pencils, crayons, markers, and/or paint. It may also be created using a computer drawing program, but all images must be original.

We are looking for an image that will be bold, clear and that can be simplified to a line drawing for use on t-shirts, mugs, etc. Fine line detail can be easily lost or will not reproduce well. VEAES may modify the winning selection for this purpose.

All artwork must be original. All submitted entries, images and artwork become exclusive property of VEAES, and the winning artist and their parent must grant VEAES the right to use, reproduce, alter or modify their design and use it in VEAES materials without restriction or further compensation.

Submissions must be scanned and emailed to [lori@veaes.ca](mailto:lori@veaes.ca) and the original be sent by blue-bag to Lori Liang at the VEAES office. Submissions will be accepted until March 31, 2023.

## VEAES' Annual Welcoming Ceremony: January 25th, 4-7pm

***All teachers hired to the VSB within last 3 years are welcome!***

On January 25th, 4-7pm VEAES is holding its Annual Welcoming Ceremony at the VEAES office. Teachers hired to the VSB within 3 years are welcome. A social with drinks, light refreshments, door prizes and swag will follow brief presentations. Space is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible to [lori@veaes.ca](mailto:lori@veaes.ca) to confirm your attendance.

If you are a teacher who has already been welcomed to VEAES, knock on the door of colleagues new to your school this year to make sure they've received their invite! The sooner our early-career teachers get acquainted with union structures, the stronger we become as a collective!

### **Kindergarten Survey**

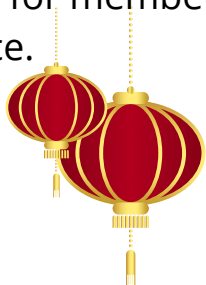
The Working and Learning Conditions and Bargaining (WLCB) Committee has created a survey for Kindergarten teachers regarding their working conditions, gradual entry, and student readiness. We encourage all K teachers to fill out the survey [here](#).

If you have working and learning conditions that you would like to bring forward, please consider coming to the next Working and Learning Conditions and Bargaining (WLCB) Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 15th at 4pm. Contact the Committee Chair, [kate@veaes.ca](mailto:kate@veaes.ca) for more info.

### **New Member to Health & Safety Committee**

Are you a new member to your Joint Occupational Health & Safety Ctte (JOHS)? If so, the employer is required by WorkSafe BC to provide one day of mandatory training for all new members of your site-based committee. The employer has 2 session dates to choose from that you can find on the [Pro-D site](#), one on Thursday, Jan 26th & the other on Tuesday, Jan 31st. Spots are filling up, so register soon!

We would also like to highlight the [BCTF's Health & Safety handbook](#) that is a great resource for members to learn more about their Health & Safety rights in their workplace.



## **Upcoming School Union Rep Training (SURT)**

As part of our annual training and support for VEAES Staff Reps, we will be conducting our usual School Union Rep Training on February 1st and 2nd. A message was sent out to Staff Reps on January 16th. Due to availability of TTOCs and space at the VEAES office, we are unable to accommodate switches in days.

Consistent with our work on member engagement and union renewal, please invite an early career teacher or another member at your worksite to attend if you are unable to make it. Please RSVP by January 24th to [andrea@veaes.ca](mailto:andrea@veaes.ca).

## **VEAES School Visits**

Schools have started taking us up on our offer and VEAES In-House Table Officers (IHTOs) have been scheduling school visits. These visits can be during lunchtime, before, or after school – whatever works best for your site. IHTOs are there to listen, share information, and provide advice and support for any specific issues your site is dealing with. If you would like to invite a VEAES IHTO to your school, please ask your Staff Rep to email [karine@veaes.ca](mailto:karine@veaes.ca), who will coordinate your meeting with one of your elected representatives.

## **BIPOC Affinity Group Gathering**

This is an open invitation for members who self-identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Colour to gather on Monday January 30 at the VEAES office, 4-6pm. We will enact decolonization and indigenization by beginning with a circle and learning how to weave. Gifting, reciprocity and relationships are key to the cultures of the host nations. Attending members can expect to connect, share stories, and relax in the therapeutic tactile activity. Food will be provided, so please RSVP [karine@veaes.ca](mailto:karine@veaes.ca) or [marjorie@veaes.ca](mailto:marjorie@veaes.ca) before Thursday Jan 26.

## **Attend the Annual Women's Memorial March (MMIWGT2S+), February 14th, 2023**

Join VEAES' delegation in this important act of solidarity and decolonization.

VEAES will be releasing up to 10 members to attend this year's Annual Women's Memorial March (MMIWGT2S+). Please email ([eric@veaes.ca](mailto:eric@veaes.ca)) if you would like to join VEAES' delegation. The march begins at 11AM at the corner of Main & Hastings and more information will be shared with participants as the date approaches.

If you would like to make a donation to support the march, please visit the [Downtown Eastside Women's Centre page here](#).

## **Pro-D News**

This past fall we've had many members inquire about the timeline for Temporary Supplemental Funds reimbursements that had been approved by the Joint District Pro-D Committee. We just heard from our committee reps that the VSB clerk has caught up to all reimbursement requests made up to Dec 31, 2022, and the approvals have gone to payroll for cheques to be processed and mailed to employees' home address. The employer did say that it takes a few weeks for payroll to process from the time of approval.

Do you have creative ideas for how Collaborative Inquiry Fund can be spent by members, to engage in professional development collectively? The criteria remain that the activity must take place outside of instructional time and that it be centered around an inquiry question. The Joint District Pro-D Committee will be discussing ways to disburse these funds in a way that supports professional learning, with the possibility to exceed the \$200 per member limit.

This item will be on the next Professional Issues Committee meeting on January 30th, please come and be a part of the discussion. It is a virtual meeting and begins at 3:30pm. For more info, contact the committee chair, [sylvia@veaes.ca](mailto:sylvia@veaes.ca).

### **Pro-D opportunity: Take It Outside! Experiential Learning and Sustainability Pro-D Day on April 24**

Hey educators! Registration is now open for Take It Outside—an entire day dedicated to exploring experiential learning and sustainable teaching practices. This FREE Pro-D consists of two parts: a morning field experience (of your choosing) located at one of several locations in Vancouver, followed by a community lunch and afternoon indoor sessions at Tupper Secondary School. Whether you're curious about taking students outside, or outdoor learning is already part of your daily practice, this Pro-D has something for everyone.

Spots are limited so register soon: <https://prod.vsb.bc.ca/workshopdetails?workshopid=2407>

### **Hobiye 2023 – Restoring our Roots**

Hobiye (Ho-be-yeh) is a celebration of the waxing crescent moon, during the latter part of winter, each year. Celebration of the Nisga'a New Year through stories, songs and dances. The Nisga'a Of Ts'amiks (Vancouver) hosts this celebration each year and invites dance groups from other nations to celebrate the strength, beauty and diversity of Indigenous cultures. This year it will be at the PNE Forum (2901 East Hastings, Vancouver, BC) on March 2-4, 2023. Stay tuned for the official Hobiye Schedule.

## Adult Ed Collective Agreement Ratified

The AE sub-local ratified the Memorandum of Understanding for their new Collective Agreement on January 14th. The Agreement is for three years, and thanks to language in the Agreement AE members will get the same general wage increases as their K-12 colleagues. More importantly, improvements gained via the negotiations include a fourth Professional Development Day, something that has been desired by the membership since the first Agreement back in 1993.

Many thanks go out to the Bargaining team and the VEAES executive, both of whom were instrumental in getting these benefits for our members.

Rob McGowan, President, Adult Education sub-local of VEAES

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## Dates to Remember

### **Health & Safety Committee Meeting**

Thursday, January 19th at 4:00pm

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89738258024>

Meeting ID: 897 3825 8024

Passcode: 426732

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

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### **Executive Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, January 24th at 4:00pm

### **VEAES Office**

2915 Commercial Drive

Vancouver, BC V5N 4C8



VEAES

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