

VEAES WEEKLY

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



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VSB Budget

With the preliminary budget coming out, it's more important than ever to let the VSB trustees and the district know what the priorities need to be as they make decisions that will impact our working conditions and students' learning conditions. Your VEAES reps attended [Monday's Special Board Meeting](#) and shared VEAES' position that any cuts, or "efficiencies", that need to be made, must be made as far from the classroom as possible; that services to students must be a priority; and that Adult Education is crucial in terms of equity for students, and is actually a fund-generating program for the district and therefore, should be expanded.

Your reps also spoke to the importance of the district to revive the Advocacy committee so that stakeholders, trustees, and the district can advocate to the Ministry to fully fund public education. If there's never enough money to run our district so that student needs are met, then that's a problem the province needs to address.

We will keep members updated as this process continues. Our VEAES reps will be present and advocating on behalf of our members at these meetings and we encourage all members to be talking about the realities in our classrooms and how we need more services to meet the growing needs of our students.

Go Public! Campaign

If you're not sure how to start these conversations, we've got you covered! Last week, we announced the launch of our [Go Public! Campaign](#), in line with the VSB's 2023-24 budget-making process. The goal of this campaign is for the VSB Trustees and provincial MLAs to hear from as many people as possible that Public Education is in dire need of more funding.

Hopefully by now your Staff Rep has shared out our posters, which you can use to direct concerned members of the public to our webpage and the campaign. There is lots of information and links to help you with speaking points, there are shareables that allow people

to send a letter to trustees, the district, MLAs, the Premier, the Ministers of Education and Finance. We just need members to share it far and wide.



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We've had members ask about sharing this campaign with parents and what is true is that we need to be mindful about how we share our political info. Please refrain from sending it using your VSB email address or using the emails that were provided for school purposes. Our advice is to get it to your PAC Chair and have them disseminate it through their channels. Another way is to have the poster with you when talking to parents and have them scan the QR code with their phone and share it with their networks. If you are friends with a parent from another school, that's another way to get it out there and they can pass the info along.

We know that we have parents on our side, so we are also looking to expand the scope and get the broader community involved, so talk to your Slo-Pitch teammates, your pottery pals, your hiking crew, etc. We hope to generate many letters to these officials, flood their inboxes, and make our priorities heard!

Upcoming Deadline for Part-Time Teachers to Relinquish a Continuing Contract (LOU)

If you are a TTOC and also have a part-time continuing contract and you wish to relinquish the contract, you need to inform [Employee Services](#) **before April 30th** in order for the part-time continuing position to be considered vacant for staffing purposes. This would mean that the following September, you would be back on the TTOC list and would not hold that FTE with the district.

If you are currently in a temporary contract and believe you may convert to a continuing contract after April 30th and wish to relinquish, please send an email to Employee Services before April 30th to find out your date of conversion and make the request. If you need support on this matter, please contact karine@veaes.ca or vanessa@veaes.ca.

The LOU regarding relinquishing contracts is found on [page 200 of the CA](#). We are currently working with the Employer to improve communications with TTOCs around converting into continuing contracts to prevent the involuntary conversions that can happen. The information on how you convert into a continuing contract is found in [Article C.20.2.f](#) of our Collective Agreement.



Removing a Letter of Discipline From Your File

If you have an LOD in your file, you can ask for it to be removed after 5 years from the date of your discipline meeting, provided no subsequent discipline has occurred. This is referred to as the sunset clause. If this applies to you, please contact the VEAES office and we can help facilitate this process for you.

Upcoming Solidarity Days

Wednesday, April 12 is the International Day of Pink. This year the theme is [COURAGE](#). We urge VEAES members to wear pink and stand in solidarity with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to continue to fight for equality and acceptance.

Friday, April 14 is the Day of Silence. It started out as a student-led demonstration where 2SLGBTQIA+ students and allies all around the world take a vow of silence to protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination of 2SLGBTQIA+ people in schools. Students go through the school day without speaking and end the day with breaking their silence and sharing their experiences to bring attention to ways their schools and communities can be more inclusive. For more information, please go to glsen.org/dayofsilence.

Call for Nominations for Next Year's VEAES Executive Committee

Reminder that we are now accepting CVs for next year's Executive Committee. If you are interested in putting your name forward to be a member of the VEAES EC for the 2023-24 school year [please fill out the CV](#) and return it no later than April 15th. All candidates running for elected positions will be shared with the membership in the upcoming VEAES NEWS in May. The elections will take place at the May 16th AGM. Candidates who do not make the April 15th submission deadline can still put their name forward to run from the floor at the AGM. If you are considering it and would like more information, do not hesitate to reach out to the VEAES office or any VEAES EC members to answer questions and provide insight about the work of the EC.



Cultural Leave for Aboriginal Employees

During our last round of bargaining, the BCTF, the Ministry of Education and BCPSEA (who negotiates on behalf of the government) committed to continue the joint work towards reconciliation. Article G.11 – Cultural Leave for Aboriginal Employees: ***The Superintendent of Schools or their designate, may grant five (5) paid days per year leave with seven (7) days written notice from the employee to participate in Aboriginal Cultural event(s). Such leave shall not be unreasonably denied.***

While this new language was negotiated, there have been some barriers for Aboriginal educators in accessing this leave in some districts. The BCTF has also been clear that the 7 days notice is not always possible in every situation and that districts should use their discretion in granting these leaves with less than 7 days' notice.

In an attempt to remedy some of the issues around what constitutes a cultural leave, the BCTF has created a document and shared it with BCPSEA. Here are some details from that document:

For a definition of who is Aboriginal, see the Constitution of Canada which can be found [here](#).

Culture is a broad term which includes: individual activities, one-on-one activities, group activities, family responsibilities, activities hosted by an organization, etc.

Cultural activities can take place at a variety of locations, both outdoors and indoors, including inside of private residences. This leave is also intended be used to plan and prepare for cultural activities. Cultural activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *Harvesting plants or hunting animals*
- *Food preservation and distribution*
- *The maintenance of a cultural site or the travel to a culturally significant site*
- *Providing service to an elder*
- *Mentorship relationships*
- *Cultural exchanges*
- *Learning, practicing, rehearsing, or performing singing, drumming, or dancing*
- *The creation of materials such as baskets, ties, beadwork, art, tools, clothing, shelter, etc.*
- *Events such as ceremonies, pow wows, book launches, storytelling, feasts, memorials, rites of passage, and other types of gatherings.*

The above list is intended to be illustrative in nature and is not intended to be exhaustive.

VEAES is having discussions with the Employer about this leave and will bring any information back to the membership. If you are an Aboriginal member and are having issues with accessing your Cultural Leave, please contact the VEAES office.

Pension Seminars

Starting April 5 to the end of June 2023, the BCTF will be presenting online pension seminars every Wednesday to help members learn about their pension plan, their pension options, and the factors to consider when planning for retirement.

All seminars will take place from 4:30–6:00 p.m. PST, virtually using the following Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87344950598?pwd=YWVqNkVvN25mRDBJTAA4aUJSZ1h3QT09>

Members who cannot attend the live online sessions may watch the recorded pension seminars at their convenience on the BCTF YouTube channel in the [Playlists](#) section.

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

BCTF Advisory Committee Vacancies

The BCTF's advisory committee vacancies for term positions starting next school year have been posted to the [BCTF website](#). Advisory committees are an opportunity for members to get involved in their union on specific topics and focus areas that are important to them. [Check out the postings](#) for more information on each advisory committee including application instructions and deadlines.

BCTF Neurodivergent Virtual Monthly Meet Ups

The BCTF is excited to announce the launch of the Neurodivergent Virtual Monthly Meet-ups.

These are a new monthly gathering for BC public school teachers who identify as being neurodivergent. Join us in building community and connection with peers throughout the province centered on the unique needs and experiences of neurodivergent teachers. We are looking forward to connecting with you!

The meetings will be hosted on Zoom at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89706977254?pwd=RFErMDlhNno0d0ZsTTVtSWVpMHVTdz09>

Dates: March 30, April 27, May 25, and June 29, 2023

From: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Please watch the promo video [here](#).



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Dates to Remember

**Executive
Committee Meeting**
April 11, 2023 @ 4 pm
VEAES Office
2915 Commercial Drive



**Aboriginal Education
Committee Meeting**
Apr 13, 2023 4:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81492927895>
Meeting ID: 814 9292 7895
Passcode: 931201
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada



**Health & Safety
Committee Meeting**
Apr 13, 2023 4:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89951381511>
Meeting ID: 899 5138 1511
Passcode: 012944
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.