

VEAES WEEKLY

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



Table of CONTENTS

Updates From The Kindergarten Survey - Page 2

Teacher Regulation Branch Fee Due May 31st - Page 2

Asian Heritage Month - Page 3

Jewish Heritage Month - Page 3

Pro-D Opportunity: What are the Implications of Artificial Intelligence in BC Education? - Page 4

Hot Pot Talks x Mayworks - Page 4

Half Day Monthly Staff Rep Leave - Page 5

Early Retirement Incentive Plan Deadline May 31st - Page 5

BCTF Opportunities: Call for Teachers to Co-Create Black Canadian Learning Resource - Page 6

VEAES AGM, Tuesday May 16 at Van Dusen Gardens - Page 6

Pro-D News - Page 6

Post and Fill Update - Page 7

Updates From The Kindergarten Survey

Earlier this year, the Working and Learning Conditions/Bargaining Committee conducted a survey about working conditions in Kindergarten. There was great participation in this survey and we compiled data about the specific needs of Kindergarten teachers and students. With the help of some Kindergarten teachers, the WLC/B Committee created several motions that included advocating to extend the gradual entry period to the end of the second week of school.

The clear messages from the survey were shared at meetings with management. At this point, moving towards extending the gradual entry timelines will require additional advocacy. Teachers are entitled to duty-free lunches, and supervision for all students must be contemplated by school plans. Please take your regularly scheduled recess and lunch periods and organize through Staff Committee to ensure that support is provided for your students. If you find that you are not being supported in taking breaks during allotted times, please reach out to the VEAES office.

We know that working and learning conditions have been exceptionally difficult over the past few years. And that this is intensified for Kindergarten teachers working with our youngest students. We will not stop advocating for our colleagues and students and we will bring the voices that Kindergarten teachers shared in the survey to our future meetings with management.

Teacher Regulation Branch Fee Due May 31st

Your annual practice fee must be paid by May 31st every year to maintain a valid BC teaching certificate. The annual fee is \$80, with no discounts or prorated fee options. You need to pay the fee to keep your certificate in good standing.

Please check your April 30th pay advice to ensure that your Teacher Regulation Branch fee has been paid. If you work in more than one district, check your pay advices for both.

If you are on leave, please email leaves@vsb.bc.ca to inquire if the employer has paid your annual fee. If not, you will have to pay it yourself.

Please refer the [government's TRB fee page](#) for more info on how to pay the fee.

Asian Heritage Month

May is Asian Heritage Month. Asian Heritage Month is an opportunity to reflect on and recognize the many contributions that folks of Asian heritage have made and continue to make to communities. This month is also a reminder for all of us to come together to combat anti-Asian racism and discrimination in all its forms.

You can check out the [Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society page](#) for events happening this month, as well as the [Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden](#).

We would also like to highlight a resource that may be helpful for your classroom. [Hidden Figures](#) is a collection of stories that came from a conversation with elementary school teachers. It's a great resource with local stories that can be used as a starting point for many interesting classroom discussions and lessons.

For our own personal learning and reading, [The Vancouver Public Library](#) has also released their picks for Asian Heritage Month.

Jewish Heritage Month

Canadian Jewish Heritage month is celebrated to provide an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the inspirational role that Jewish Canadians have played and continue to play in communities across the country. Antisemitism is an ongoing problem in our world and this is a month to reflect on the fact that while progress has been made, Jewish people in Canada continue to face discrimination.

The Jewish community has long played a central role in labour struggles and in the fight against discrimination in Canada. In 1947, the Jewish Labour Committee successfully lobbied to pass the first anti-discrimination resolution at the Canadian Congress of Labour, demanding "vigorous action" in "the fight for full equality for all peoples, regardless of race, colour, creed, or national origin."

[The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver's Community Calendar](#) has many events scheduled this month for the Lower Mainland area. Jewish Queer and Trans Vancouver is also hosting an [Exhibit Launch of the BC Jewish Queer & Trans Oral History Project](#).

The Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion has curated [a list of resources on Jewish Heritage Month](#). As well, [the National Film Board](#) has a selection of films that celebrate the important contributions of Jewish Canadians.

Pro-D Opportunity: What are the Implications of Artificial Intelligence in BC Education?

You are invited to join the BC Early Career Teachers' Association (BCECTA) for a virtual dialogue panel on Saturday, May 13th, about this hot topic in education.

The BCECTA has organized a virtual panel dialogue on the topic of "AI and BC Education." It is a 90-minute Zoom event for the morning of Saturday, May 13th. The recording will be made available to all ticket holders just in case people can't necessarily participate live. Participants can submit questions for consideration during registration.

The panel is comprised of education faculty, educational podcasters, teachers and admin from BC, Alberta and Australia combined.

All proceeds benefit the BC Early Career Teachers' Association PSA, which is a non-profit grassroots support network for new teachers and TTOCs in British Columbia established in 2015 and run off the side of our proverbial desks.

Click [the link](#) for the panelist's biographies, for more information, and to purchase tickets. (Yes, the ticket is eligible for professional development reimbursement if you have PD funds available!)

Hot Pot Talks x Mayworks

Join Hot Pot Talks for two special edition episodes for [Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts](#). Hosts Jen and David talk to Chinatown organizers in the [first episode](#), and to educators and labour organizers in the [second](#). They talk about intersectional labour organizing and Chinatown(s), while reflecting on histories and futurities of labour organizing. Special guests include Rita Wong, Chiyi Tam, and members of the [Asian Canadian Labour Alliance \(ACLA\)](#).

"[Hot Pot Talks](#)" is a virtual talk show series hosted by David Ng and Jen Sungshine, co-founders of [Love Intersections](#) - an arts collective of queer artists of colour. Hot Pot Talks grows from their collaborations in the Chinatown community, and their desires to cultivate relationships on themes of diaspora, cultural sharing, decolonization, Land Back, food art practices, and cultural production. "Hot Pot Talks" is a virtual platform where artists, activists, and other cultural workers come to share stories and strategies for doing intersectional, anti-racist social justice work through the labour movement, through the co-op model, and through art and culture.

Half Day Monthly Staff Rep Leave

The monthly half day union leave provided by VEAES has been part of our budget for many years, in part, because of the ongoing work connected to the role. We hope that the time provides some flexibility for you, and we have made it possible to combine those days. However, as a result of information and advice from the BCTF, it is essential that members who access these days either report to their worksite or coordinate with the VEAES office to work from here.

This is a position that we need to take in order to reduce risk to members and to the union in the context of both labour relations and financial security, not a response to the Board's position about remote work and location during Professional Development days.

Other reminders:

- Please ensure that you complete the Staff Rep Leave form and submit it to hitomi@veaes.ca, as leaves that are not documented create significant workload here at the office
- In months where we hold SURT training (October, February and May), there is no ½ day available for rep use, whether or not you attend the VEAES training
- There is only one ½ day per school available per month. If schools wish to share or rotate the release days among School Union Team, please indicate this on your leave form for our staff
- If you wish to work at the VEAES office during those times, please contact one of the In-House Table Officers to ensure that space is available well in advance.

Early Retirement Incentive Plan Deadline May 31st

Early Retirement Incentive Plan is a part of our Collective Agreement. The guiding principles for ERIP are in [Appendix B \(page 202\) of the CA](#). If you are between the ages of 55 and 64, have worked for the VSB for 10 years, and are considering retiring this June, please check out the [ERIP Information Package](#) and submit your request to EmployeeServices@vsb.bc.ca prior by May 31st.

For information about your Pension, whether you're a new teacher, a teacher returning from leave, or approaching retirement, you can register for a facilitated "live" zoom seminar or do a self-guided session online. Find information and links [here](#). Be informed and have a plan!

BCTF Opportunities: Call for Teachers to Co-Create Black Canadian Learning Resource

The BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) is seeking four members to work in collaboration with Focused Education Resources (Focused ED) and Open School BC as educator subject matter experts to contribute to the development of a Black Canadian learning resource for classroom use.

A balance of elementary and early secondary (Grades 8–9) BCTF members selected will represent the BCTF.

Check out [the BCTF website](#) for information on time commitments, requirements & selection criteria. To apply, complete the [CV form](#) and email to applications@bctf.ca. If you have any questions, please email Daniel Shiu, dshiu@bctf.ca. Deadline application is Friday, May 12 at 5pm.

VEAES AGM, Tuesday May 16 at Van Dusen Gardens

Please join us for our Annual General Meeting on May 16th, 4pm in the Peggy Gunn Woodland Hall at the Van Dusen Gardens, 5251 Oak Street. The [VEAES News](#), which includes the agenda for the AGM and important docs, has been posted on the [VEAES website](#), emailed to members, and hard copies have been sent to sites.

The AGM is where we pass the budget, make bylaw changes, and elect your Executive Committee for next year. Do not fret, it is not all business, we will have time to socialize after the business of the meeting has been completed. Please RSVP to hitomi@veaes.ca so that we can manage the logistics of space and food. We hope to see you there!

Pro-D News

Pro-D Committees are reminded to access School Based Pro-D Funds (Account #8114), as many schools are carrying big balances. VEAES encourages school communities to take advantage of Pro-D opportunities by making use of the funds available. These funds are prioritized for group professional development, and should not be used for individual activities. Pro-D chairs and interested members can use these funds for release time to plan school-wide activities.

To support individual professional development, members can access the Joint Conference Fund (Account #8120). Examples of how this fund can be used: attending workshops, release time for observing another teacher, purchase of individual copies of professional books.

For more information and guidelines on the two Pro-D funds, please refer to the [Pro-D Handbook](#).

Post and Fill Update

We know this is a busy time at schools as we move through the Spring Transfer process. At last week's School Union Rep Training, your Staff Reps received a lot of information around the post and fill process. For those Staff Reps that missed it, we've uploaded it on the [website](#).

We've also added a document around [School Organization](#) for schools to work on alternative school organizations. If your site is engaging in this process, please ensure that the alternative school orgs are brought to a VEAES meeting for discussion. If there is a recommendation that comes from that meeting, it can be brought through Staff Committee. Post and fill is a stressful time for members, so the importance is to prioritize solidarity at your site and don't bring something forward that is divisive and creates more discord.

In terms of increases in time, we are still waiting to hear back from the employer around the incremental amounts (less than 0.2 FTE) being denied to members who didn't submit their increase forms. We will keep members updated on that piece.

We also want to highlight the new language that was negotiated last round, Article E.21.11, that states: *An employee who has been notified by the site-based administrator that they are unable to increase their FTE at their worksite can commit to a transfer by informing Employee Services in writing one week/ (seven calendar days) after staffing allotments have been determined for each site.*

If you are engaging in the Post and Fill process this year, we strongly encourage that you read up on your rights under [Article E.21 in the Collective Agreement](#), including the changes made in the [2019-22 round](#) of bargaining, as well as the [2022-25 round](#) of bargaining. We know it's difficult to have to go through 3 different documents, but are holding on hope that our new Collective Agreement will be available soon. In the meantime, please reach out to the VEAES office if you have any questions.





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Dates to Remember

Aboriginal Education Committee Meeting

May 11th, 2023 @ 4 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86303570789>

Meeting ID: 863 0357 0789

Passcode: 426806

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Professional Issues Committee Meeting

May 15th, 2023 @ 3:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87380685110>

Meeting ID: 873 8068 5110

Passcode: 124868

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

VEAES

Annual General Meeting

May 16th, 2023 @ 4 pm

Van Dusen Botanical Garden

Peggy Gunn Woodland Hall A & B

5251 Oak St. Vancouver

Social to follow the AGM

VEAES

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